



# Sellafield told to clean up in twelve months

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British Nuclear Fuels has been given 12 months to make changes to its nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria.

The company was told yesterday by the Health and Safety Executive that unless the modifications were made the site would be closed.

The demands come in the wake of the publication of the safety audit of Sellafield by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which criticized BNFL for short-term measures over maintenance of older plant that gave rise to most leaks and exposures radiation.

Mr John Rimington, director general of the Safety Executive, said: "These are not recommendations. The changes have been imposed. They will have to be implemented. We intend that they should be carried out without delay."

Last night, the company said the audit was "a helpful contribution to the further improvement of safety at Sellafield."

The range of improvements requested covered management, control and instrumentation, containment, ventilation, decontamination, transfer of radioactive materials, maintenance and staff training.

The investigation began in February after a number of "minor" incidents of leaks and exposures of radiation.

Attention centred on five which occurred this year. They involved:

● Discharges of uranium to the Irish Sea on January 23 and 24.

● Release of a radioactive aerosol in the B205 building on February 5

Safety audit 5  
Undue secrecy 5

● Fire in a trench at the waste disposal site at Drigg, adjacent to Sellafield, on February 13

● Leak of liquid from a cracked pipe carrying effluent on February 18

● Contamination with plutonium dust in equipment where operators were making plutonium pellets on March 1.

The report concludes that none of the five incidents was capable of significantly affecting the public, though one incident could have had serious consequences for some workers if protective systems had not come into play and prevented escalation.

British Nuclear Fuels said that high priority had been given to the development of new plants, including those to reduce radioactive discharges to the sea, to meet what was seen as the public's main

concern about reprocessing operations at Sellafield.

It accepted that it was timely to deploy more resources on improving the older operating plants on the site, which were under criticism.

Mr Eddie Ryder, the chief nuclear inspector, said: "There is nothing that affects the risks and dangers to the public. The problems we have uncovered largely affect the doses of radiation to workers."

Mr Rimington said there had been a distinct improvement in the amount of radioactive discharge and in the incidents involving exposures to workers.

He said the policies of the company in improving the plant seemed to be the right ones.

But the priorities had been applied in a way that reduced the attention paid to potentially hazardous parts of the old plant. Some of those did not yet come up to the standard demanded.

There was criticism over delays in the preparation of a fully developed "safety case" for the reprocessing plant.

There was also criticism over a short-term approach to maintenance and to renewal in important parts of the plant, and over inadequacies in instructions and procedures.

## Royal pair break new ground at Bond film set



The Princess of Wales smashing a film stunt synthetic sugar glass bottle over the Prince of Wales's head yesterday when they visited Pinewood studios, Buckinghamshire, to see the making of *Living Daylights*, the new James Bond film.

## Satellite TV licence for Virgin partners

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday awarded a 15-year franchise to operate Britain's direct broadcasting satellite service, a consortium formed by Granada, the Pearson group (publishers of the *Financial Times*) and Virgin, with Amstrad Consumer Electronics and Anglia Television.

The consortium, BSB, said it planned to start transmitting three new channels by 1990, and would seek additional investors to provide the £500-£600 million finance.

Lord Thomson of Mafeking, IBA chairman, said the project was the first privately financed satellite broadcasting system in the world. If successful, it could create up to 25,000 new jobs over five years.

Mr Andrew Quinn, co-ordinator of BSB, said that four separate programme services will be provided, sharing the three channels available.

One channel devoted entirely to feature films, will be available by subscription for a weekly fee of about £2.50, and BSB said it plans to participate directly in the production of 12 feature films a year.

The other two channels, one a children's service, the other general entertainment, will be supported by advertising.

## Opposition mounts to S African censorship

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A storm of protest from newspapers and opposition parties greeted the imposition yesterday by Pretoria of sweeping new censorship of press, radio and television reporting of civil unrest and most forms of extra-parliamentary opposition to the Government.

Mr Colin Egin, leader of the Progressive Federal Party, the liberal anti-apartheid official opposition in the white House of Assembly, said the new restrictions, which apply to both local and foreign journalists, had "in effect, pronounced the death sentence on press freedom in South Africa."

Johannesburg's evening newspaper, *The Star*, in a front-page editorial comment under the heading "An Iron Curtain", warned its readers: "This is just possibly the last issue of any relatively free newspaper you will read in South Africa."

In a similar front-page statement, the *Pretoria News* said: "Well, that's it. Today South Africa joins such sophisticated autocracies as Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Paraguay, China and its own arch foe, Soviet Russia. It now has in common with them that distinctive characteristic of dictatorial regimes: political control of the press."

The paper went on: "Of course, this does not disturb the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) or

the (Afrikaans) newspapers, which, with mild protest, will don the muzzle. But it effectively means the end of the freedom and credibility of independent newspapers."

Mr Hal Miller, executive chairman of the Argus Company, one of the two main English newspaper groups, said: "The regulations are even more restrictive than we expected, and the flickering lamp of freedom has dimmed alarmingly. Our newspapers will be severely handicapped in their primary task of providing information to the public, and there is a very real danger that, in the absence of independent reporting and analysis, the people of South Africa will be prey to exaggerated and disruptive rumour."

The new regulations require all articles containing prohibited material to be teleaxed for vetting by an inter-departmental press liaison centre, set up by the Government's Bureau for Information.

Prohibited material covers news and comment about all forms of unrest, from riots and police action to protest marches, meetings, funerals, boycotts and politically-motivated strikes, as well as reporting of statements encouraging people to take part in such activity.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association said its members would continue to do their best to inform the public of events.

Blanket of silence, page 8

## Anderton crusade against Aids

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

Mr James Anderton, lay preacher and Britain's most outspoken chief constable, yesterday launched a moral crusade against Aids. He decried it as the self-inflicted scourge of society.

The new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and recent convert to catholicism said the spread of Aids in the so-called civilized Western society could be blamed on the increasingly degenerate conduct of the human race and a cesspool of immorality.

Officers from forces throughout the country, who were attending a seminar organized by Greater Manchester police to discuss policies and safeguards to protect officers coming into future contact with Aids carriers, sat stunned as the head of Britain's largest provincial force delivered his surprise sermon.

Mr Anderton told the 160 delegates from 43 forces that because of his personal lifestyle he felt Aids posed no threat to him.

But as a Christian, police officer, husband, father, and lover of the human race who cared about future generations of yet unborn children he sought answers to baffling and bewildering questions.

With a preacher's practised skill Mr Anderton led his audience gently into the subject. Besides those suffering the self-inflicted scourge were many others who were completely innocent victims.

The whole of society, he suggested, must be worried about the disease for social, political, practical and not least of all moral reasons.

Of intense worry were television reports which discussed the possibility of whole generations being wiped out and of entire nations being decimated.

Mr Anderton spoke of Aids as a crippling commodity of twentieth century lifestyle. "If, as we are told, Aids is for the most part a sexually transmitted disease then it should be easy to stop. But how can it be in the light of current attitudes and behaviour?"

Mr Anderton then launched into the crux of his theme with a zealot's fervour. "Why do homosexuals freely engaged in sodomy and other obnoxious sexual practices knowing the dangers involved?" he asked. "Why is this question not asked of these people?"

"Why do prostitutes, infected or not, ply their trade regardless. Why is that question not asked every day on television?"

"Why do so called happily married men receive the sexual services of prostitutes or

## Portfolio Gold

© The £4,000 daily prize in the Portfolio Gold competition was shared by two readers. Details page 3.

© There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 29. www to play, information service, page 22.

## Nimrod row takes off

The political row over the Government's choice of an airborne early warning system was intensifying last night, with accusations from supporters of GEC's Nimrod that the RAF has been leaking information to undermine the British option and conflicting Commons motions signed by cohorts of Tories.

Ministers are to decide within the next few days between the British-made system, which has cost £900 million to develop and Boeing's E3-Awacs.

Cecil Parkinson, page 18

## Nato talks

Nato is to hold direct talks for the first time with the Warsaw Pact on conventional arms control "from the Atlantic to the Urals".

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## End of Boycott

The cricket career of Geoffrey Boycott, the world's leading Test run-scorer, seems over after his rejection of a contract with Derbyshire to ally opposition to his standing again as a Yorkshire committee member.

Page 38

## Four-day deal

Four-day cricket matches will become part of the county championship for the first time in 1988, the Test and County Cricket Board decided at their winter meeting at Lord's.

Page 38

## Slim chance

White Crusader's chances in the America's Cup look slim. An international jury have rejected the British protest against USA for changing her forward rudder.

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## Filibuster fails to halt schools Bill

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Labour MPs yesterday wiped out the day's business in the Commons after a 23-hour protest filibuster against the teachers' pay Bill.

But their action failed to stop the controversial legislation completing its remaining stages.

After a debate lasting a little short of 24 hours and incorporating 16 divisions, the legislation empowering an imposed settlement in the long-running schools dispute was given a third reading by 235 votes to 152 - a Government majority of 83.

One casualty of the marathon sitting was the scheduled Commons clash between the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, which was widely expected to focus on Labour's unilateralist defence policy.

Tory and Alliance MPs were saying that Labour kept talking to save Mr Kinnock further embarrassment over his party's plans to scrap nuclear weapons, but this was strongly denied by Opposition sources.

They pointed to minutes of last week's shadow cabinet meeting at which it was decided to mount an all-out assault on what was regarded as a "brutal" measure being rushed through the House.

Labour MPs were told last Thursday to expect a sitting lasting late into the night in an attempt to expose the shortcomings of the Government's approach.

Earlier yesterday, a weary Mr Giles Radice, Labour's frontbench education spokesman, said the 30 backbench "sharpshooters" who had fought the Bill through the night had made their point.

They had subjected it to full democratic scrutiny, exposed its contents to a wider public and sent a signal to the Lords, which debates it on January 12.

The Bill scraps the Burnham pay bargaining machinery and replaces it with an interim advisory committee to make recommendations to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

But Mr Baker will be the final arbiter over any orders laid before Parliament.

Labour's attack centred on the accusation that the Secretary of State was robbing teachers of their trade unions rights in defiance of international conventions.

But Mr Baker insisted that his proposals would respect such rights because the unions would have a part to play in the determination of salaries and conditions.

Moving the third reading, he said it was a pity the Opposition had not had more to say about children's rights and parents' rights - notably the right to an uninterrupted high quality education. The Bill was designed to help restore this right.

Parliament, page 4

## Economy 'looks bright'

The outlook for the economy next year is good, says the Bank of England. And manufacturing industry plans to invest more next year than at any time since the late 1970s (David Smith writes).

The Bank, in its *Quarterly Bulletin*, says: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer has painted a picture of non-inflationary growth which is,

or ought to be, within our grasp. It predicts that the economy will grow by 3 per cent. According to the Department of Trade and Industry's Investment Intentions Survey, the volume of investment by industry will rise by 6 per cent next year and by a similar amount in 1988.

Bank optimism, page 23

## Computer funds sought in hunt for child killer

The Home Office is to be asked to provide funds for the standardization of police computer information on three child murders.

A spokesman for six chief constables said yesterday they were convinced that the murders could be solved. But important parallels could not be followed up because of a lack of resources to transfer information to a recently-acquired Home Office computer, called Holmes.

The chief constables decided this week to approach the Home Office for financial backing after three meetings at which they discussed the "considerable financial and resource implications" of such an operation.

The police said yesterday that the move indicated the importance of a possible link between the murders of Caroline Hogg, aged five, who disappeared in July 1983,

## Fleming refuge in Peru fails

By Michael Hornsby

Peru last night dashed the hopes of refuge for Mr John Fleming, the Briton wanted by Scotland Yard for questioning over the £26 million Brinks-Mat robbery, by withdrawing a visa granted to him earlier.

Under US law Fleming, who has been held in Miami for almost four months, faces deportation to Britain if he is unable to find a country willing to give him refuge.

Since August, he has been expelled or turned back from Spain, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic, and now may be running short of possible hosts.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said officials at the Peruvian consulate in Miami revoked his visa after learning that he was being sought for questioning by Scotland Yard.

## MPs query ban on Chamberlain's private diary

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Historians and MPs are questioning the action of Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, in stopping the publication next month of the private diary and papers of Neville Chamberlain.

Birmingham University, which houses the papers consisting of a diary and several letters from Chamberlain to his sisters, was planning to release the papers in January, in accordance with what it had been led to believe by the Cabinet Office was a 50-year ban on the documents.

On receiving the papers from Chamberlain's family in 1976 the university contacted the Cabinet Office and was

told that they could be released next year.

But the university has recently been told by Sir Robert that the original advice was a mistake and that the papers were subject to the 100-year secrecy rule on ministerial papers relating to the abdication.

The earlier mistake had apparently been made because the officials concerned forgot that Chamberlain was, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, a member of the Baldwin Cabinet which had to wrestle with the crisis.

However, historians are raising doubts over the legal basis for Sir Robert's action in stopping the release of private,

Experts on public records believe that the Cabinet Office may have discretion to stop the publication of private papers if their contents are thought to contain material similar to that in ministerial papers which are the subject of a ban.

Mr B S Benedict, sub-librarian of special collections at Birmingham, said yesterday: "This is a grey area. It raises the question of when the responsibility of a Cabinet minister ends. Do the private recollections of events that occurred in Cabinet amount to ministerial papers if they are written down and committed to a diary?"

He said university authorities would be discussing how to clear up the confusion.

Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Mossley Hill, is tabling questions to the Lord Privy Seal, Mr John Biffen, asking why the papers were being withheld.

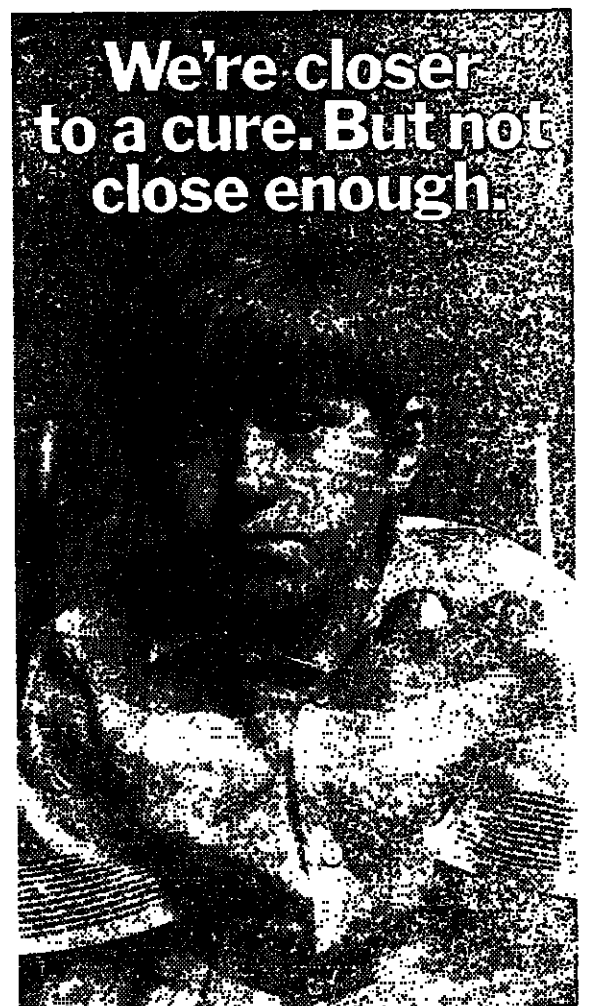
He said yesterday: "The legality of this action must be investigated. The documents are not government documents and several other private collections of papers of politicians relating to the abdication have already been opened to historical inspection.

"Senior Civil Servants seem to have a knee-jerk reaction to try to suppress the publication of information. Now this seems to be extending to historical documents that can have no bearing on present day security affairs."



Neville Chamberlain, pictured in 1936.

as opposed to ministerial papers. Ministerial papers are the property of the Crown and therefore subject to the terms of public records Acts through the decades.



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NEWS SUMMARY

Bomb attempt by IRA foiled

The Provisional IRA yesterday sent a parcel bomb to the offices of a member of the Northern Ireland police authority as part of an intimidation campaign against its members.

Terrorists hid the explosive device inside a book before sending the parcel through the mail at a time when postmen are coping with the huge Christmas rush.

A businessman became suspicious when it was delivered to his premises in Belfast's city centre and carried the package to an RUC station near by where Army bomb disposal experts defused the device.

Police to get armour

Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, was yesterday told he may have five armour-plated vehicles in which to transport police.

Mr Kelly had asked his police authority for the vehicles to be fitted with the armour, which includes plastic lining inside, iron-grill windows and anti-riot tyres and petrol tanks.

Although it is the first time the force has had armour-plated vehicles, the chief constable dismissed suggestions that they represented a new initiative. He said they merely replaced existing vehicles.

Inquiry into firm Maxwell damages

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, was yesterday awarded £5,000 in the High Court against WH Smith & Son, who distributed an issue of Private Eye that contained a libel against him.

WH Smith apologized. The court was told that it had continued to distribute Private Eye after it stated that it would justify the allegation, which it failed to do.

Mr Maxwell was awarded £55,000 against the magazine last month.

Adult training boost

A £3 million scheme to boost adult training in industry was announced last night by Mr George Walden, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The scheme, called Pickap, will provide courses at colleges, polytechnics and universities to help to adults update their skills. Annual grants of between £25,000 and £150,000 will be made available.

A report released yesterday said building societies were also seeking better management training because of new laws which allow them greater competition with banks.

Union ballot

Voting in the re-run ballot which will decide whether Mr John Macreadie (right), a supporter of Militant Tendency, becomes general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association is expected to be completed today.

A report showed that 21 branches of the association with a membership of 2,270, were unable to vote in the last ballot which gave Mr Macreadie a victory by 121 votes.

Victory for disabled

More severely disabled people will qualify for extra allowances under new arrangements announced by the social security minister, Mr John Major, yesterday.

From April 1988, when the social security reforms come into effect, severely disabled people living independently in the community will qualify for an extra premium even if they are currently receiving the lower rate of attendance allowance.

The announcement comes after widespread criticism of the original proposal that only those receiving attendance allowance at the higher rate would be eligible. Mr Major said that 7,000 people would qualify at a cost of £8 million.

Solicitors vote to lift advertising rules

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new publicity code giving solicitors wide freedom to advertise in supermarkets, stations and post offices, on teleshops or as sponsors for sporting or other events, was endorsed in principle by the Law Society council yesterday.

But at the end of a long and intense debate the 70-member council decisively rejected a proposal to allow solicitors to make arrangements with estate agents, banks or building societies for the introduction of clients.

The proposal was a key part of a package for revised practice rules which would have paved the way for radical change. Final council approval was deferred for the new publicity code, as well as the remaining revised practice rules, until next month.

Under the proposed new rules, solicitors would be able to set up companies providing services, such as company secretarial services, trustee or executor companies, or property display centres. But a ban is proposed on "hiving off" part of a solicitor's practice — such as conveyancing — to a separate business.

This issue with the question of solicitors employed by financial institutions, and that of mixed partnerships with other professionals, are likely to be looked at separately next spring.

The publicity code and the revised practice rules will come up for final approval at the Law Society council meeting next month.

Under the new code there is a complete shift in emphasis, which allows almost all advertising instead of only limited advertising as now. Advertising on television, by direct mail and on "moveable objects" is permitted.

Urging solicitors to adopt the package as a whole, Mr Peter Verdin, who chaired the working party, gave a warning that solicitors would be squeezed out of "mainstream commercial life" unless they agreed to the changes.

But there was wide opposition from many members. Mr John Franks, called the proposals a "rogues' charter" and said the profession should be balloted on the proposed new rules.

Several schemes are already under way: £740,000 has been spent at Blackhall, and £240,000 is earmarked for land reclamation in the Easington area, with 100 per cent grant aid. Mr Tracey was investigating how the Government could aid future clean-up schemes, in co-operation with British Coal.

Afterwards, he said future joint land reclamation schemes put forward by British Coal and local people would be given a high priority for government assistance.

Future tipping by British Coal could be concentrated on one site, to ease environmental problems. He emphasized that the industry should meet the costs of achieving the environmental standards of the day.

Mr William Waldegrave, the environment and countryside minister, has been given a frosty reception by some water authorities after his announcement that 350 bathing beaches around the country have to be brought up to EEC standards by the end of the 1990s.

At present only about half Britain's beaches meet the Community's requirements. Others, including popular resorts such as Blackpool, would fail the tests according to initial results from a two-year survey of the beaches due to be completed next year.

Mr Cliff Davies, the South Wales area director of British Coal, who has presided over the closure of half the coalfield's pits since the end of the miners' strike, is to retire.

Since his appointment, in July last year, Mr Davies has closed 13 pits and cut manpower in the coalfield from 21,000 to 11,800. The cuts, together with investment totalling £100 million in new high technology coalfaces, brought the area into profit for the first time since the Second World War. He is to be succeeded by the deputy director (mining) Mr Ron Price, who will take over on April 1.

Mr Davies, aged 61, took over as area director on July 1 last year, four months after the end of the miners' strike.

Charities must change, Princess Anne says

Private charities in Britain should pioneer new techniques of caring for the socially deprived, Princess Anne says.

They could then be incorporated into the welfare state system she adds in a forthcoming television programme on the work of the Save the Children Fund in Great Britain.

But the charities should not absolve the state system of its responsibilities.

The innovative role of charities is already evident in certain areas and could well be extended, says the Princess, who is president of the fund which is best known for overseas relief work.

Princess Anne says in the hour-long documentary, *The Princess and the Children*, which will be shown by TV South on New Year's Day, that the fund spends a third of its income on work in Britain's inner-city areas.

Its projects include a centre to care for the children of Protestant and Catholic detainees in Belfast; a playbus scheme to minister to the needs of gypsy children in the Home Counties; a day-care and literacy project for Asian mothers and their children in London; and inner-city schemes to give sexual and legal support to some of the parents of the nine million children in Britain who live below the official poverty line.

People needed to be educated about their rights under the welfare state system, the princess says.

"There is no point in us trying to duplicate the thing or just pass it by. Besides, it makes perfectly good sense to inform people of what is available for them."

She says there is now a greater awareness in local authorities for grant aid to be channelled through voluntary agencies, which can try out new approaches.

"It is one way of finding out whether they work before local authorities take them on. The voluntary agencies are much more flexible and can respond much more quickly, so they are probably much better placed to carry out those sort of investigative projects."

They also have another important function. The welfare state is a safety net but there will always be some groups of people who fall through.

The Princess says Save the Children's work at home is "every bit as important" as its work overseas.

"It has always tended to look for areas which are being neglected for one reason or another — people falling through the safety net."

She said the aim was to find some practical way in which we can approach the problem so that it can be incorporated in the welfare state.

The fund is happy to prime such initiatives which currently cost about £5.6 million a year to run. "But we do not want to go on running them. They are there, if they work, to be taken over."

Mr John Browne, MP, after his visit to Winchester Prison yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Wintonians wary of MP under fire

One does not need to spend long in the busy streets and narrow lanes of Winchester to realize that the area's local Conservative MP is in a surprising amount of trouble.

Mr John Browne, a paragon of former Guards officers, succeeded Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles in the blue chip safe Conservative seat in Hampshire in 1979, but saw his majority whittled by the Alliance challenge at the last election.

Mr Browne is now principally in the news because of a bitter divorce settlement dispute with his former wife, who is threatened with imprisonment if she does not pay an outstanding £49,000 from an original £175,000 settlement agreed in 1984.

Mr Browne last week announced his engagement to a New York divorcee and promptly had to deny rumours that it was his intention to drop his parliamentary career and emigrate to the United States.

Simultaneously, criticism reared its ugly head among senior former officers of his local Conservative association.

Mr Simon Blunt, the constituency chairman, has summoned a special meeting of the constituency executive next Tuesday to consider whether Mr Browne should be reappointed as the constituency's candidate.

Blue asbestos has been found in the 130-year-old Wellington Pier theatre, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, which is facing demolition.

The council, which owns the theatre, said yesterday it would spend more than £2,000 on covering the dangerous asbestos, as part of a campaign to save the building.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Mr William Taylor, one of Europe's leading powerboat racers, who died in a 120mph crash last September.

Mr Taylor, aged 40, of Priory Road, Keynsham, Bristol, was thrown from his craft during a Formula 2 grand prix race at Holme Pierrepont national watersports centre near Nottingham, an inquest was told.

Mr Nigel Reed, of Stockwood, Bristol, said that engine problems had emerged on a practice run.

Print activists demand recall of TUC

workers with redundancy terms far inferior to those being offered to the former employees of News International, publishers of *The Times* and three other national newspapers.

Print workers are angry over the decision by the TUC general council last month not to act on the vote taken by the TUC congress in Brighton which said the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union should be punished because of its association with the company.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, has said the reality of the situation is that throughout the dispute, thousands of members of

Sogat, the National Graphical Association, the National Union of Journalists and the Transport and General Workers' Union have worked to produce and distribute all News International's publications.

In contrast, only a "couple of hundred" EETPU members worked at the company's high technology plant at Wapping.

The Sogat hardliners claim that by its action, the policy-making general council has snubbed the TUC congress which they say is the ultimate "parliament" of the trade union movement. Its decisions should therefore be acted upon.

Miss Dean acknowledged she is in a difficult position as only the general council can order a special recall.

Sogat's national executive committee will consider the request to press for a recall of congress at its next meeting in January although some activists are pressing for an immediate decision.

A recent meeting called by the London Communist Campaign Group called for a mass turn-out at Wapping tomorrow to demonstrate in support of the 5,140 former employees who went on strike and were dismissed.

There have been regular demonstrations and marches and 24-hour picketing since the dispute began last January.



Mr John Browne, MP, after his visit to Winchester Prison yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Wintonians wary of MP under fire

From Robin Young, Winchester

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'Meanest' councils attacked

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

A propaganda offensive to highlight the "meanest" Conservative-controlled councils will be launched by the Labour Party today.

The campaign is intended to counter the "loony left" attack launched by the Government against left-wing authorities.

Each month the record of a Tory "meaney" council will be compared with that of a similar Labour-controlled authority. The first council will be Berkshire which, Labour claims:

● Prevented any children under five entering primary school;

● Used secret procedures to scrap seven new nursery classes due for opening in September 1985;

● Cut staff in higher education, affecting particularly dance and drama courses;

● Cut back on road maintenance, leading to the Audit Commission to say the council should spend another £600,000;

● Stopped all internal redecoration in schools, youth and community centres this year.

Labour will say that in Labour-controlled Derbyshire, school meals are 30p cheaper, rubbish costs half as much to collect, more is spent on road repairs, over 30 times as much is invested in economic development, under-fives have nearly four times as good a chance of getting a school place and there are, proportionally, more police.

Other councils on Labour's "meanest municipalities" list include:

● Bromley, which intends to put up council rents by 25 per cent and evict 100 people from their homes over the next two years to make way for a shopping development;

● Buckinghamshire County Council, which has just cut all school meals;

● Surrey County Council, where parents have been asked to help to buy school books and equipment;

● Wandsworth, which privatized rubbish collection and then won an award for dirty streets.

Lord Rothschild's case, after a statement by Mr Wright that he paid for his flight to Britain and arranged for him to meet Mr Chapman Pincher with the aim of writing a book about Soviet penetration of MI5.

Although Lord Rothschild has not explained why he brought Mr Wright to meet Mr Pincher, Sir Michael is likely to decide against legal action.

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Collieries' waste still polluting coastline

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Richard Tracey, the junior environment minister, was yesterday show the full extent of the "black waste" pollution, along the coastline of Co Durham, caused by the dumping of colliery waste.

Mr Tracey spent an hour in a helicopter being shown the area around Seaham Harbour to discover the full extent of the problem.

Afterwards he toured five beaches with Mr Ken Moses, technical director of British Coal, and met local councillors and environmental pressure groups to discuss ways of clearing the ugly black waste.

Several schemes are already under way: £740,000 has been spent at Blackhall, and £240,000 is earmarked for land reclamation in the Easington area, with 100 per cent grant aid. Mr Tracey was investigating how the Government could aid future clean-up schemes, in co-operation with British Coal.

Afterwards, he said future joint land reclamation schemes put forward by British Coal and local people would be given a high priority for government assistance.

Future tipping by British Coal could be concentrated on one site, to ease environmental problems. He emphasized that the industry should meet the costs of achieving the environmental standards of the day.

Mr William Waldegrave, the environment and countryside minister, has been given a frosty reception by some water authorities after his announcement that 350 bathing beaches around the country have to be brought up to EEC standards by the end of the 1990s.

At present only about half Britain's beaches meet the Community's requirements. Others, including popular resorts such as Blackpool, would fail the tests according to initial results from a two-year survey of the beaches due to be completed next year.

Mr Cliff Davies, the South Wales area director of British Coal, who has presided over the closure of half the coalfield's pits since the end of the miners' strike, is to retire.

Since his appointment, in July last year, Mr Davies has closed 13 pits and cut manpower in the coalfield from 21,000 to 11,800. The cuts, together with investment totalling £100 million in new high technology coalfaces, brought the area into profit for the first time since the Second World War. He is to be succeeded



# Brain defect babies 'could be used in transplants'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The birth of babies who are doomed to die from brain defects could be induced and their vital organs used in transplant operations to save other dying children, according to an American surgeon.

The controversial prospect, in which expectant mothers would be asked to allow their newborn to become immediate candidates for transplants, is put forward in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet* by Dr Michael Harrison, of the University of California in San Francisco.

Most children with fatal diseases die waiting for a transplant because there are not enough donor organs, he said. The present system of taking organs from "brain dead" accident victims could not meet the demand.

"Unless donor material becomes simpler and less costly to procure and transplant, these life-saving procedures will have to be rationed," Dr Harrison said.

But fetuses with defects so hopeless that they meet the requirements for abortion at any stage of pregnancy "may be ideal donors", he said. Such babies would die naturally during or shortly after birth.

One baby in every 1,000-2,000 was born with anencephaly, in which the brain is missing. The condition is easily detectable during pregnancy and screening could lead to about 2,000 such cases being identified in the United States every year, Dr Harrison said.

Immature organs, including

the heart, liver and kidneys, from such cases could be transplanted at least as a temporary life-saving measure pending other treatment or transplant operations, he suggested.

Dr Harrison, of the foetal treatment programme and the division of paediatric surgery in San Francisco, said: "If foetal organs prove suitable, transplantation for children may be greatly simplified."

The biggest potential advantage was that such organs were less likely to be rejected.

"We are identifying fetuses so fatally damaged that survival outside the womb is impossible. The ability to transplant foetal organs may now give us the chance to recognize the contribution of this doomed fetus to mankind," Dr Harrison said.

The diagnosis of anencephaly should be confirmed by experts independent of the transplant team, and the transplant surgeons should not be involved in the care or counselling of the expectant mother.

"The diagnosis of foetal anencephaly is always devastating. Once the family has worked through their grief and decided how the pregnancy will be managed, the possibility of organ donation may be brought up.

"In my experience families are surprisingly positive about donation. They clutch at any possibility that something good might be salvaged from a seemingly wasted pregnancy."

# Wife had a fatal dose of morphine

A forensic scientist found a fatal overdose of morphine in the body of a doctor whose husband, a general practitioner, is accused of murdering her, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dr John Taylor had been given part of the liver of Dr Ruby Baksh after her body was exhumed in Spain.

He also examined serum taken from Dr John Baksh's second wife, Madhu, after he had allegedly tried to kill her.

Dr Taylor said it showed morphine was in her body "which could have been fatal".

Dr Baksh, aged 53, of Bickley Road, Bromley, south-east London, denies murdering his first wife in 1983 and attempting to murder his second wife in January this year.

Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, has alleged that Dr Baksh injected Ruby with a fatal dose of morphine while on holiday in Spain and got an elderly Spanish doctor to cer-

tify she had died from a heart attack.

Mr Green has told the court that Dr Baksh wanted to be free to marry Madhu, but later, faced with heavy debts he drugged her, slit her throat and dumped her in woods in Kent. Her life was saved when a passer-by found her.

Det Chief Supt Norman Stockford said Dr Baksh wrote to him of "kissing and cuddling sessions" he had with Madhu in a hospital ward in November 1982.

Dr Baksh wrote that his first wife took an overdose that month but recovered. When they went to Spain in December Dr Baksh claimed she committed suicide after she said she was wearing on the night she alleges she was raped.

Mr Mathew suggested the evidence about dramatic changes in the girl's behaviour was "overwhelming". He also suggested there was "compelling" medical evidence.

Mr Anthony Aridge, QC, for the defence, said: "All of us in this courtroom have an abhorrence of sexual interference with young children. If it is proved that men or women are responsible for such sexual interference, then it is right that they should be convicted."

"On the other hand, there is perhaps nothing worse than the thought of someone being wrongly convicted."

He spoke about the difficulty of assessing the evidence of a young child, and described what had been a "traumatic year" for the girl.

Her parents split up; her home burnt down; she moved house twice and changed schools twice; her brother was ill; her mother had to stay with him in hospital; she had to stay away from home, with the doctor; and her mother was taking a new lover.

He asked: "Would it be truly beyond the realms of thought that such a little girl would want to draw attention to herself? That such a little girl would want to hurt herself by banging her head, or in some other way?"

The case continues today.

# Medieval gold locket sold for record £1.3m

The Middleham Jewel, a gold locket dating from Richard III's time, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £1.3 million to an undisclosed private buyer.

The price was a record for any medieval object sold at public auction. Mr Richard Camber, senior director of Sotheby's, said. The previous highest price was £1.2 million, paid in 1976 for an enamel medallion.

Three treasure hunters found the locket in Middleham, North Yorkshire, near a castle which belonged to Richard III. They will share the proceeds of the sale with the owner of the land and its tenant farmer.

Mr William Wiggins, aged 42, one of those who found the jewel with a metal detector last year, was at the sale and said: "We always knew it was

something special. I'm going for a holiday now and I could think about a new house."

Sotheby's would not disclose whether the jewel, described as one of the most important examples of medieval goldsmith's work surviving, would stay in Britain.

The fifteenth century jewel, just bigger than a matchbox, is engraved with a nativity scene on one side, and the trinity on the other, with a border of saints and a ring at the top for a chain.

Members of the Richard III Society, from Wensleydale, Yorkshire, which is dedicated to the memory of the monarch, were at the sale with more than a dozen Middleham villagers.

The society speculates that the jewel may have been given to Richard's illegitimate son Edward as a charm to ward off epilepsy.



Eric Sykes, the actor (left), with the insignia of the OBE yesterday which he received at an investiture held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Virginia Wade, the tennis player, was awarded the OBE insignia, and others honoured included Mr Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, the author and broadcaster, who was made CBE.

# Rape case jury's vital questions

Prosecuting counsel in the case of a doctor accused of raping a girl aged eight, told the jury yesterday that they had two vital questions to consider. Was she sexually assaulted; and did the doctor do it?

Mr John Mathew, QC, for the prosecution, was making his closing speech on the fourth day of the trial, in a private prosecution, brought by the girl's mother, at Chelmsford Crown Court.

The doctor, aged 50, an anaesthetist, from Essex, has denied raping the girl while she was staying with him. He has also denied indecent assault.

Mr Mathew told the jury: "There are really two questions for you to ask yourself and then answer them... was that young girl sexually assaulted, raped or indecently assaulted? Because if the answer to that is no, or that you are not sure, then that is the end of this matter and you will acquit and you needn't think any further about the evidence."

If they were sure, he said, they had to consider whether the defendant was responsible.

There were three aspects to this, based on the evidence. They were: the change in the girl's character immediately she returned from the doctor's house; the medical evidence; and the evidence relating to staining of the nightdress she said she was wearing on the night she alleges she was raped.

Mr Mathew suggested the evidence about dramatic changes in the girl's behaviour was "overwhelming". He also suggested there was "compelling" medical evidence.

Mr Anthony Aridge, QC, for the defence, said: "All of us in this courtroom have an abhorrence of sexual interference with young children. If it is proved that men or women are responsible for such sexual interference, then it is right that they should be convicted."

"On the other hand, there is perhaps nothing worse than the thought of someone being wrongly convicted."

He spoke about the difficulty of assessing the evidence of a young child, and described what had been a "traumatic year" for the girl.

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He asked: "Would it be truly beyond the realms of thought that such a little girl would want to draw attention to herself? That such a little girl would want to hurt herself by banging her head, or in some other way?"

The case continues today.

# Coroner absolves family

A coroner yesterday absolved a family of all blame for the attack by their Jack Russell terrier which killed their daughter, aged five days.

The dog, Dotty, was put down after killing Amy Victoria Bourne, of Wanlip Road, Plaistow, east London, on Tuesday.

At the inquest into the child's death, Dr Harold Price, the London eastern district coroner, described the death as "tragic, sudden and unexpected."

As the child's father, Mr Daniel Bourne, a bus driver, listened, Dr Price said: "There is no way in my view this absolutely loving little family could have anticipated this tragic event."

He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Mr Bourne told the Walthamstow inquest that his daughter was born on Thursday of last week at Newham hospital, east London, weighing 6lb 6oz.

He said the Jack Russell had been with the family for two-and-a-half years and that his

# Dog savages baby

other two daughters, Claire, aged 13, and Lyndsey, aged 10, got on well with it, and with their other dog, a cross-breed Labrador.

"They used to dress the Jack Russell up and push her around in a pram. The dog had never done anything to anybody," Mr Bourne said.

Mr Bourne said he and his wife had been trying for a third child for several years.

On Tuesday, they had intended to take Amy out in the perambulator. While he fetched it the baby was in a carrycot on two chairs up against the wall in the kitchen.

Mr Bourne said: "I noticed that the little dog had gone. I saw she was in the carrycot. I rushed over there and at first I thought she was just being nosy. Then I picked up the baby and called out for my mother to get an ambulance."

Staff at Newham General Hospital later certified the baby dead.

Dr Alan Grant, a pathologist, said death was due to cerebral lacerations due to skull perforation and fracture.

He said that part of the baby's brain had been destroyed. There were cuts to the head and widespread bruising to the skull.

Some cuts were caused by the small teeth of the dog.

PC Colin Manning, a dog handler from East Ham police station, said the dog, which had blood around its muzzle, showed aggression towards him.

Later, at the hospital, Mr Bourne told him he wanted the dog destroyed. This was done by a veterinary surgeon.

PC David Linnale, stationed at East Ham, said he saw blood stains outside the house when he went there.

Dr Price said: "We all of us feel the greatest sympathy towards this young family with regard to this tragic, sudden and unexpected death of a very valuable little girl whom the parents have been trying to have for 10 years.

"Perhaps the dog may have been jealous. I don't know. Perhaps it jumped in response to the high frequency noise of the baby."

# Children gain from rhymes

Parents who want their children to do well at school were yesterday urged to switch off the television and teach them nursery rhymes.

Psychologists from Oxford University claim that youngsters taught rhymes have a head start over classmates.

The team started a study in the 1970s and recent tests of the 400 children, now aged 13, showed that those who had never learnt nursery rhymes were still lagging years behind with reading and spelling.

Dr Lynette Bradley, of the university's experimental psychology department, said: "The ones who couldn't rhyme to start with and who weren't trained were two years behind by the time they were eight or nine."

"I have just checked again and the same big difference is still there. They haven't caught up at all."

"We need to turn off the television and go back to reciting nursery rhymes. It is a pleasant way for children to learn about sounds."

# Ice Age find

The skull of a bison which roamed Britain during the Ice Age 100,000 years ago has been unearthed during excavations in a gravel pit at Maxey, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

The bones are being coated with a special plastic to prevent crumbling and go on display in the city museum next year.

# Couple 'shunned after false arrest'

A woman who is suing the police for false arrest during a murder inquiry wept yesterday as she told the High Court in London how her South Wales pit village turned against her.

Mrs Sarah Holtham, aged 45, of Upper Francis Street, Abertridwr, Mid Glamorgan, and her husband, William, aged 49, are claiming damages against the Metropolitan Police and Det Chief Insp Derek Croft.

Their son, Gareth, was a suspect in the murder of Mr Anthony Bird, a homosexual, in London in June 1980, and they were arrested at their home in November 1980. They were questioned in London for four days, but were not charged.

Police believed the couple had knowledge of stolen stereo equipment - a vital clue which is still missing. Their son has not been charged with the crime.

Mrs Holtham, a factory worker, wept as she told Mr Justice Paine: "I knew I hadn't done anything wrong. The police called me a liar."

"What we went through in Abertridwr for a long time afterwards was very sad."

"It was terrible for us as a family. We lost quite a lot of friends and we were being kept awake until four, five or six in the morning with terrible phone calls."

The police claim they had reasonable grounds for taking the Holthams into custody and acted lawfully.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

# Non-white population shown in survey

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

One fifth of the population of inner London is non-white, according to a government report yesterday. The non-whites accounted for 9 per cent of the people in metropolitan counties and 4.4 per cent of the total population of Britain.

The Labour Force Survey 1985 shows that the proportion of persons aged under 30 in the non-white population was 62 per cent compared with only 42 per cent of whites.

Some 60 per cent of the West Indian or Guyanese and Indian populations were aged under 30 compared with around 70 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

However, the population of mixed ethnic origin had the youngest age structure of all. More than half were aged under 16.

The report, prepared by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, shows how Britain turned into a multi-racial country.

Only 10 per cent, most of whom were white people born in the Mediterranean Commonwealth or India, entered the United Kingdom before 1955. Most of the people born in the Caribbean Common-

wealth came between the mid 1950s and the mid 1960s and the corresponding peak for people born in India came in the late 1960s and early 1970s. People born in Bangladesh were more recent arrivals and more than one third first entered the UK during the 1980s.

The total non-white population in 1985 is put at 2,376,000. The total comprises 547,000 people of West Indian or Guyanese ethnic origin, 689,000 of Indian, 406,000 of Pakistani, 99,000 of Bangladeshi, 122,000 of Chinese, 102,000 of African, 61,000 of Arab, 232,000 of "mixed" and 117,000 "other".

"Not stated" were 637,000.

The survey is of private households. The results are based on interviews in the spring quarter of 1985. The total coverage of the survey was about 59,000 households in Britain, containing about 160,000 people. The results have been updated from the sample to give estimates applying to the population of Britain as a whole.

# Portfolio Gold - Breakfast surprises for two

Yesterday's winners of the Portfolio Gold prize, sharing £4,000, have both been taking part in the game since it started and both discovered their good fortune during their routine breakfast-time check on the numbers.

Mrs Julia Bishop, of Long Bennington, Lincolnshire, checked with her husband, a company director, and said she would probably invest the money on behalf of their son, Andrew, aged three.

The other winner, Mrs Anne Edgerley, aged 75, of Kelsale, Saxmundham, Suffolk, who is married with a family and "a lot of grandchildren", said: "I have happy dreams of possibly replacing my car and other things that are fast wearing out, like the washing machine. You need a car living in the country as we do."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



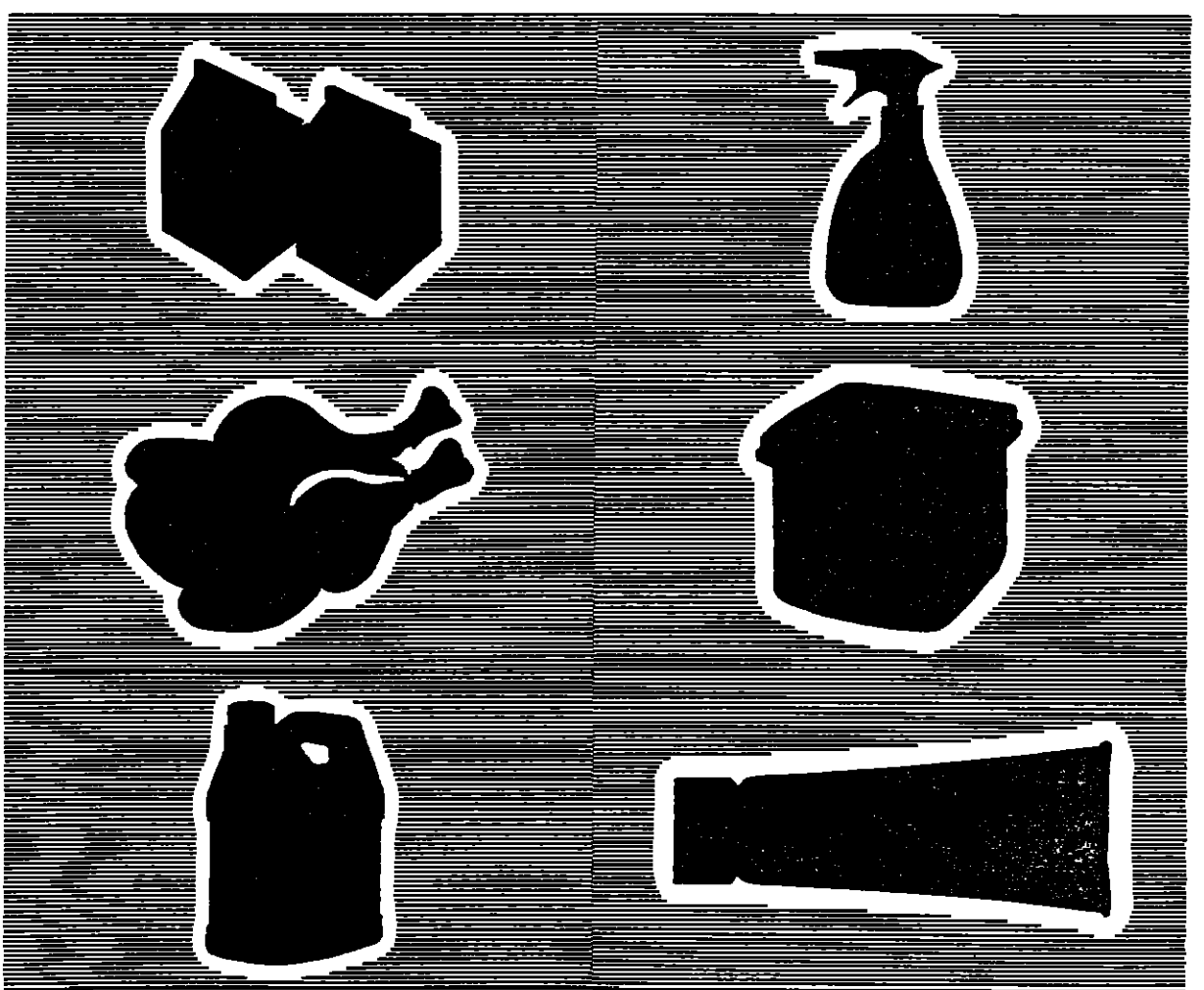
Mrs Julia Bishop, who plans to invest her win

# Fireproof lab gutted in blaze

A fire at the Monks Wood experimental station at Abbot's Ripton, Cambridgeshire, caused damage estimated at £250,000 yesterday.

The fire, in a laboratory described as fireproof, started in the early hours and was extinguished by staff. The station carries out animal and mineral research for the Government.

# Packaging materials - solutions you can't pick off the shelf



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# Teachers' pay Bill approved after all-night debate

The Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill received its third reading in the Commons at 3.24pm, after 23 hours of debate interrupted only by divisions. The sitting lasted from 2.30pm on Wednesday until 4.38pm today and as a result, today's scheduled business was lost.

MPs should have debated a Northern Ireland Bill on security in the province, which instead will be considered next week. The teachers' Bill started on Wednesday with a series of points of order from Labour MPs complaining about the Government's intention to rush it through and their following that with lengthy speeches, including one of nearly two hours. The debate proceeded as follows:

4.18pm, Wednesday: Committee stage of the Bill began. The longest speech in this section, and the most entertaining, was made by Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) who spoke from 2.32am to 4.19am (1 hour 47 min).

He devoted the first part of his speech to an attack on the Alliance and Mr Freud came in for particular criticism. Responding, Mr Freud said that he was waiting for the Alliance amendments to be reached.

Mr Skinner drew the biggest laughs of the night. He first pointed out that Mr Freud was now going to be suspended, was true, Mr Kenneth Baker replied, with some relish, that he had no intention of suspending consideration of the Bill. "We have just started and I feel the debate is just beginning. We are just warming up."

10.37pm: Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman, moved the first of the second group of amendments saying that the remuneration of the Bill should be replaced by negotiating machinery as set out in the Acas document agreed between the local authority employers and unions representing the majority of teachers.

By 12.45am, Thursday, Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) was accusing the Government of Stalinism and attendance in the public gallery was down to one man.

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) intervened to report that he had just returned from the picket line at Wapping. The News International dispute, he said, was an example of an oppressive Government which had thousands of police officers to keep 5,000 people out of work.

Because of inadequate industrial relations legislation, a private employer had been allowed to dismiss people at will and the Government supported him. In the teachers' dispute, the Government was in favour of the law of the jungle in the public sector, just as it applauded the law of the jungle in the private sector.

Replying at 12.54am, Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, pointed out that two of the six teachers' unions had not signed the Acas deal and two of those that had signed had changed their minds. The proposals were unacceptable.

Mr Mark Fisher, for the Opposition, asked why the Secretary of State did not hold a ballot of all teachers to see whether they preferred his deal or the Acas one. Mrs Rumbold said she was sure Mr Baker would be willing to hold such a ballot if he had the power to do so. Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) suggested, from a secondary position, putting an advertisement in *The Guardian*. Mr Fisher challenged the Government to insert a new

clause in the Bill to give the Secretary of State the power to ballot teachers. Mrs Rumbold did not respond to the challenge. She said the "wonderland of unrealistic negotiations" could now be opened for some time and a solution to the dispute had not been found. Therefore he did not think it was sensible for the Government to accept the amendment because such a council would not work at this stage.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that the most the advisory committee would be able to do was to glean ideas from people it had talked to among elected groupings. They would have little or no impact on the outcome. "Most people on the Tory side have been to public schools and do not understand the state system."

He combined criticism of the minister's political attitude with that of his physical attitude, alleging somnolence among the few Conservative MPs present in the chamber at that moment. "He lies there with his sleeping pack behind him, unconsciously saying to us: 'I am not interested in what you are saying.'"

[Mr Baker, Secretary of State, was using his front bench privilege of relaxing with feet up on the table, but his two supporters on the back benches were sitting with their heads to the microphones in the seats behind them, eyes closed in concentration.]

Mr Flannery predicted difficulties for Mr Baker so great as to make what had happened to M Chirac (the French Prime Minister) look like a tea party. Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone, Lab), a former National Coal Board industrial relations officer, said that only three Conservatives were left after the long and laborious night.

7.28am: [The public had also found it laborious; only one person was present in the public gallery.] The Secretary of State was to be judge and jury, paying and appointing the members of the advisory committee and guiding them. In his years as an industrial relations officer he had found that imposition of settlements on a body of people did not work. The issue very soon raised its head again.

Mr Corbyn said that no one would have respect for a body appointed by the Secretary of State. "We shall be set back into another teachers' dispute, another problem in the schools, because Mr Baker will not face up to the real reason for the dispute, that teachers have been consistently underpaid and his Government has consistently cut the money for educational spending."

5.04am: The first of a group of amendments dealing with the anomalous position of teachers in further education, who are not affected by the Bill, was moved by Mr Andrew Bennett, for the Opposition.

5.30am: In a division, the amendment was rejected by 124 votes to 27 - Government majority, 97.

5.41am: Mr Fisher moved the first of the next group of amendments, the purpose of which was to set up a national joint council to negotiate teachers' pay and conditions. He said that this proposal was based on the Acas agreement reached in Nottingham and would ensure that direct collective bargaining took place between unions and employers.

Mr Kenneth Baker said that the teaching profession was divided, the teachers' unions were divided from each other and within themselves, and the employers were divided. Something very close to the proposed joint council had already been operating for some time and a solution to the dispute had not been found. Therefore he did not think it was sensible for the Government to accept the amendment because such a council would not work at this stage.



Mr Dennis Skinner who had a few cheering words for Mr Clement Freud.

The committee would comprise aspirant Tory MPs or former Tory MPs, or people from public schools who would worsen conditions in the state schools. "Where are these creeps to come from? Are there enough creeps for the minister to fill his advisory body or will it be the ultimate trip-up for Mr Baker. Will he finally trip over his own Brylcreem?"

The amendment was rejected by 137 votes to 26 - Government majority, 111. The first clause of the Bill was carried by 144 votes to 33 - Government majority, 111.

7.44am: Mr Derek Fatchett, an Opposition spokesman on education, then moved the first of a group of amendments to provide that appointments by the Secretary of State to the advisory committee should follow consultation with teachers' unions and associations and local education authorities and that the advisory committee should be independent.

"While we seek to amend and improve the advisory committee, it would not be the intention of a forthcoming Labour government to have any truck with this committee. When we come to repeal this legislation, rather than to give it directives. He said that it was very good to have a morning audience which had been significantly missing during the night (protests and laughter)."

"It would be fair to tell those MPs who rise now that they have missed some virtuoso performances." Mrs Elaine Kellen-Bowman (Lancaster, C) So did you. Mr Freud, I have been here. Above all was the virtuoso performance by Mr Skinner, a graduate of the Quasimodo school of department, who kept the House up for some two hours.

The relationship between the Secretary of State and the committee is like that between Idi Amin and his army. The Secretary of State may say what he will and the advisory committee will do what it is told to do.

The Bill allows the Secretary of State to give directives to the committee. Our amendment maintains the link between the Secretary of State and the committee. It seemed to them that the Government would have no interest, or only a passing interest, in what the committee might say or do. The Conservatives' only interest was in the imposition of the Bill on the teachers and employers.

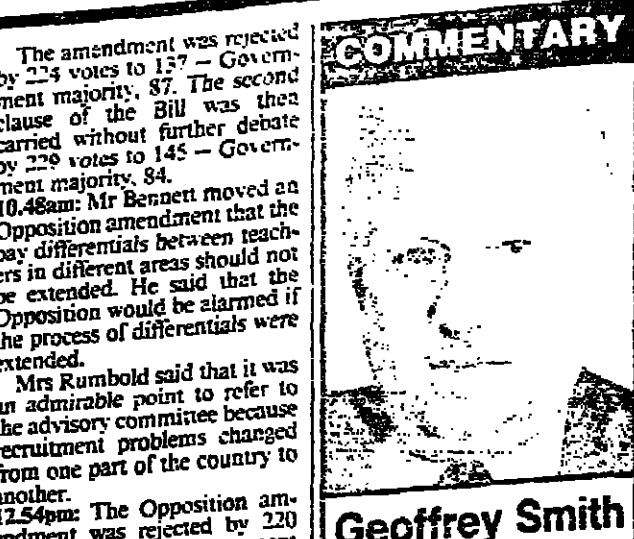
10.14am: Mrs Rumbold said that the power of the Secretary of State to give directives should be of great benefit to the committee in its interim life. It would be stupid for its remit not to take account of the financial position of local authorities. The committee would need to operate within a realistic framework of what local authorities could afford.

The purpose of the amendments was to weaken the Secretary of State's control in determining matters on which the committee should advise, and the terms under which it should operate. The Government proposals would give teachers stability and certain knowledge that there would be an effective system for the determination of their pay in the medium term.

9.30am: Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) said that the Government was removing from teachers their union. The Bill was aimed at smashing the National Union of Teachers and other unions. Mr Fatchett said that the Bill would bring the teachers' unions much closer to raw politics. The amendment was rejected by 216 votes to 93 - Government majority, 123.

9.37am: Mr Freud moved the first of a series of amendments to give the Secretary of State power only to inform the committee about financial constraints, rather than to give it directives. He said that it was very good to have a morning audience which had been significantly missing during the night (protests and laughter)."

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Geoffrey Smith

The amendment was rejected by 224 votes to 117 - Government majority, 87. The second clause of the Bill was then carried without further debate by 229 votes to 145 - Government majority, 84.

Mr Rumbold said that it was an admirable point to refer to the advisory committee because recruitment problems changed from one part of the country to another. 12.54pm: The Opposition amendment was rejected by 220 votes to 139 - Government majority, 81.

2.29pm: Mr Fatchett moved a new clause enabling the Secretary of State to empower local education authorities to negotiate an agreement on pay and conditions for all those involved in the supervision of school meals.

2.30pm: Mr Fatchett was still speaking when Opposition MP Ernest Barmister (the deputy chairman) called for order. Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C) said that as today's business had been wiped out, Prime Minister's question time would not take place and Opposition cheerers and cries of "Where is she?"

Mr Franks commented: There are MPs on all sides who have an interest in the Prime Minister's question time and it is disgraceful that the Labour Party should... [The rest of his remarks could not be heard because of noise in the chamber].

Mr Armstrong said that it was not for him to give procedural decisions and that the committee stage must continue. After further interruptions, Mr Fatchett resumed his speech on the new clause.

Those involved in education had heard the Government's reaction to democratic rights in these issues. The new clause was important to the children. The new clause was rejected by 211 votes to 138 - Government majority, 73.

Mr Clement Freud, moving one of a group of amendments, said amid some laughter: "This is a unique opportunity to win a vote. We have come second 15 times and it is fair now to expect victory."

Mr Dunn said that the Opposition had tried to make something of the provision allowing the Secretary of State to remove a member from office. They had claimed there was something sinister in that. But it was entirely common form.

The Secretary of State would have to have evidence on which he could properly base his opinion. If he made an unreasonable decision, it could be challenged by way of judicial review. The amendment was rejected by 222 votes to 142 - Government majority, 80.

3.09pm: Mr Kenneth Baker, moving the third reading, said that the debate had been long, thorough and exhaustive but not exhausting for him, his Minister of State or his Parliamentary Secretary. They were ready for many more hours of debate.

He would like to thank them for all the help they had given him during the course of the night. On some votes only 26 or 27 Opposition MPs had managed to stay up but the Conservatives had overwhelmed Labour by five to one.

"I would like to thank all my friends for sharing my determination to see this Bill on to the statute book." Mr Giles Radice, thanked the staff and officers of the House who, despite the haste with which the Bill had been introduced through the Commons, had provided members with the usual efficient service.

The Secretary of State had failed to shake Labour's view that the Bill had not covered over International Labour Organization conventions as well as the European social contract. 3.24pm: The Bill was read the third time by 235 votes to 152 - Government majority, 83.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on private member's motion on management and operation of the security services. Motion for the Christmas adjournment. Consolidated Fund Bill, all stages.

Tuesday: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Motion on supplementary benefit regulations relating to mortgage interest. Wednesday: Debate on the Chancellor's autumn statement. Thursday: Motions on supplementary benefit orders and regulations. Friday: Christmas adjournment debates.

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## COMMENTARY

### Party's chances not improved

This changes the reasonable expectation of what a Labour government would do. I am not so sure, however, that it will improve the party's chances of winning office. Whatever subtle distinctions may be drawn between consultation and negotiation, which Mr Kinnoch is evidently still not prepared to contest, Labour ministers would find themselves caught up in lengthy and possibly acrimonious discussions with their allies.

Being committed to Nato as strongly and wholeheartedly as this statement emphasizes, how could they break off these conversations to act on their own without agreement? But what chance could there be of securing agreement from other allied governments on the ejection of American nuclear bases from this country?

So the prospect would be of a prolonged process of haggling that would create a great deal of uncertainty, but would probably not lead in the end to the removal of the bases unless the Americans themselves became fed up with such tiresome partners.

Britain would give up its own nuclear weapons, but the pressure of other spending programmes would make it unlikely that much if any of the money saved would be devoted to strengthening the conventional forces.

This whole process would be bad for the alliance, but not so disastrous as simply telling the United States to take its nuclear weapons back home. Will the new version of Labour defence policy, however, be more reassuring to the electorate than the old one? The merit of the change is that it now looks less likely that a Labour government would carry out the party's commitment on American nuclear bases in this country.

But that is hardly a reassurance that can be shouted aloud by Labour politicians. "Don't worry, we don't mean what we say" is not exactly the most inspiring slogan for an election campaign.

In any case, there can be no certainty that a Labour government would not be pushed by its own left wing to be more precipitate than it would wish. The next Parliamentary Labour Party will contain a higher proportion of left-wingers than the present one.

How hard they pressed a Labour administration on defence might well depend upon how successful it was in other fields. Ministers who seemed to be stumbling from one crisis to the next might find it more difficult to resist.

In the meantime, the reaction of the Labour left to this new twist in party policy may be critical. Labour suffered in the 1983 election not only from the unpopularity of its defence commitments, but also from the divisions in the party.

This time the right wing has suffered in apparently silent hopelessness. The left has been jubilant because Mr Kinnoch has shared its convictions and seen no need up to now to temper them. Now that the process of fudging has begun, will the party's uneasy trace on defence come to an end?

## Channel Tunnel Bill

### 'Coast mud dump planned'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

ing how lightly they had escaped. Mr Raynsford, Labour MP for Fulham, who was speaking during the committee stage of the Channel Tunnel Bill, based his assertion on a report in a French newspaper, *Le Point*, which quotes a French Eurotunnel director as saying that only three million cubic metres of spoil will be dumped in France compared with five million in Britain.

Anticipating the Government's argument that there will be nine kilometres of land-based tunnel at the English end compared with 3.7 kilometres in France, Mr Raynsford said that if the mid-channel meeting point was really mid-channel, British responsibility would be for 27.25 kilometres or 55 per cent of the tunnel.

As it was, the French figures indicated a 62.5 per cent to 37.5 per cent division of excavated mud in France's favour, and the explanation was that the meeting point was to be seven kilometres nearer France.

Joining the fray, Mr Jonathan Aitken, Tory MP for Thanet South, accused Mr David Mitchell, the transport minister who chaired last week that the meeting point would be only "slightly nearer France, of a touch of Armstrongism - being economical with the truth". Mr Mitchell intervened to insist that the meeting point would be a maximum of two kilometres nearer France and accused Mr Raynsford of "building a great edifice on the basis of a report in a French newspaper".

Mr Raynsford had anticipated that accusation too. He flourished a document produced by Eurotunnel in France which cited identical figures for the division of spoil.

## Five Labour MPs boycott UDM vote

By Our Political Reporter

Five Labour MPs led by Mr Stanley Orme, the party's energy spokesman, refused yesterday to have anything to do with a Commons committee vote on whether the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers should be represented on coal industry pension boards.

In doing so they provoked a tirade of abuse from their Conservative and Alliance opponents, who accused them of "running scared" of Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, and of betraying loyal UDM supporters of Labour.

Labour has been put on the spot by a government Coal Bill which will give the UDM the right to representation on coal industry pension boards and charitable trusts, thereby offering it a new degree of recognition and challenging the NUM's insistence that it should be the industry's only recognized union.

Labour's dilemma is exacerbated by the fact that its refusal to recognize the UDM could seriously affect its fortunes in up to six key seats in the Nottinghamshire coalfields. The crucial clause came up in the Bill's committee stage yesterday and the five Labour members refused to take any part in the debate or to vote, despite being challenged to do so by their opponents.

Mr David Hunt, the minister for coal, claimed that "the shadow of the president of the NUM" had thrown a "shroud of silence" over the five Labour MPs, not one of whom had made any attempt to discuss the clause. "The majority of people in this committee will find it surprising that some UDM members are still loyal to the Labour Party. These people have been vilified in the most disgraceful fashion in this House and I feel the time has now come for a parting of the ways."

He challenged the Labour MPs to "have the guts and courage to distance yourselves from the stance of the president of the NUM". Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, the SDP energy spokesman, spoke of the "evil background" which led to the UDMs formation. "There was a viciousness and nastiness and unpleasantness which stalked this land in a way which we have not seen in post-war years." That "vendetta" was still going on and Labour was "running scared", he said.

## Syringes would cost £8m

The annual cost of prescribing disposable syringes and needles to all diabetic patients would be between £8 million and £10 million, in addition to the £1.2 million the Government already spent each year in prescribing reusable syringes, Lady Tringham, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said during question time in the House of Lords.

In reply to the Earl of Kinnaird, who asked what progress was being made towards allowing doctors to prescribe disposable plastic syringes, particularly to those with diabetic conditions, she said the Government was keeping the question under review.

Lord Winstanley (L) asked if she would be in mind of the plight of parents with children suffering from diabetes who had enough of a burden without having to sterilize syringes. If disposable syringes could not be prescribed for all diabetic patients, could not children at least receive them?

Lady Tringham said that most children with this condition were under consultants who could, if they decided it was clinically desirable, prescribe disposable syringes. Lord Ennals (Lab) said he was disappointed that the Government response had not been more encouraging. It would be a worthwhile expense and a wonderful Christmas present for all diabetic sufferers.

Lady Tringham said that she would make sure her ministerial colleagues were aware of the strength of feeling on the subject.

## Tucano for RAF in the spring

Delivery of the first Tucano trainer aircraft from Shorts to the RAF will be made next spring, Mr Archibald Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said in a written Commons reply. The deal represents a few months' slippage in the original date.

## Parliament next week

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Catalogue of accidents

Sellafield plant report demands safety audit on hazards in store

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British Nuclear Fuels has been told to improve the management and operation procedures of its nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria.

A report published yesterday called for a safety audit by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

It has an analysis of incidents of leaks and contamination since 1979. The report says more than 90 per cent of the radioactive waste produced by civil power generation over 30 years is on the site at Sellafield, much of it in liquid form.

So long as waste remains in liquid form and therefore dispersible, it presents a hazard to those who work there, and potentially to the public or the environment.

The report says a significant difficulty in the management of the site is the lack of national agreement on the means of the disposal in the long term of much of the highly active waste.

But the investigation focuses on the central reprocessing plant called B205. It is said, for practical purposes, to be irreplaceable and must continue to operate for some years.

Most of the incidents have occurred in B205 and its allied buildings.

The spent fuel from power stations which arrives at the site for reprocessing is of the type used in the 11 Magnox power stations of the Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

The report says even if the Magnox nuclear power stations were closed tomorrow the spent fuel currently held at the power stations or in store at Sellafield would require about ten years for its reprocessing at the present rate.

But the plant for reprocessing Magnox fuel is between 20 and 30 years old.

The report says the recent priorities of the company on introducing new plant has reduced the attention paid to the levels of capital renewal, management and skilled labour in the potentially hazardous older parts of the plant.

British Nuclear Fuels is criticized for a short-term

approach in respect to B205 both for maintenance and planned investment, without considering the long term.

That was said to be most apparent in the control room which had been successively adapted so as not to present a clear picture of the state of the plant to its operators.

In other respects the conditions at the B205 plant were said to have been subordinated to the requirements of production in an unsatisfactory manner.

The consequence of the shortcomings was that both management and workers had difficulty in dealing with an accumulation of minor problems without the ability to deal with longer term obstacles.

The report added that with one or two exceptions, the thoroughgoing and positive dedication to every aspect that is characteristic of the best parts of the chemical industry had yet to be achieved.

While site management was conscious of the difficulties and the need for care, it did not appear to be in complete control.

The effectiveness of safety advisory committees on the site was also criticized.

Despite recommendations to the company by the Health and Safety Executive in 1981, the report said, the correct balance was yet to be achieved between the authoritative advisory role of the safety committees and the essential responsibility of line management for the safety of the operations under their control.

In such circumstances, management tended to react rather than to lead and to shelter behind committee opinions and execution of paper procedures rather than take clear management decisions on real problems.

Examination of the working of a system called clearance certificates for work in the plant disclosed an excessive use of the system, clogging operations.

There remained a shortage of clear and detailed instruction how the work itself was to be done.

The site licence required the production of safety cases for

new plant and regularly update safety assessments for existing plants.

The safety case was described as fundamental to proper safety management. It was the source from which plant operating rules, maintenance schedules and emergency plans should flow.

The report said many of the plants audited at Sellafield were newer than B205, and in general were in a more satisfactory condition, though the need for better working instructions held good for those as well.

Deficiencies were detected that could lead to hazards and, in some limited circumstances, to the public.

The inspectors were not satisfied, for instance, about the practice of transfers between shifts and between departments.

The report said Sellafield had been going through a period of huge and beneficial investment, much of which was complete, and standards were improving.

Safety Audit of BNFL Sellafield 1986, volumes 1 and 2 (Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, £7 and £10).



Mr John Ollitt, aged 26, a former pit worker, of Thornley, Co Durham, restoring banners carried by branches of the National Union of Mineworkers since the nineteenth century and traditionally of silk, depicting anything from political leaders to religious scenes.

Help line for child abuse victims in appeal for funds

By Angella Johnson

Miss Esther Rantzen, the television personality, appealed yesterday for more money to keep Childline, a free national telephone service for children in danger, open to receive up to 500 calls a day.

The charity has been inundated with telephone calls from abused children, more than 100,000 in the year to run the service. At present it has enough money to last until February.

Miss Rantzen, chairman of Childline, which was launched last October, said in London yesterday: "These children have never spoken to anyone of their agony before. We must keep these lines open."

She said that the largest category of calls handled by trained counsellors was from children who had been sexually abused, an estimated 1,336. A further 637 said they had suffered physical violence, 211 complained of being bullied and 596 of parental problems.

After three evenings and an afternoon spent manning one of 10 telephone lines at the charity's headquarters in Queen Victoria Street, central London, Miss Rantzen said: "These children let you into their hearts. I am now walking around, as we all are, with the

harrowing tales they have told me in my head."

One boy rang from a telephone in a local shop late at night because he was frightened to go home after being threatened with a knife by his drunken father. Eventually he was persuaded to allow a local doctor to become involved.

A girl telephoned because she was worried that the next day she was to become forcibly involved in pornographic photography. She talked about the abuse she regularly suffered, but refused to give details of herself or her family.

Miss Rantzen said that about 90 per cent of children who telephoned did so anonymously. But many telephoned several times before they were able to confide in a counsellor.

London and the Home Counties have recorded 688 cases so far, followed by southern England with 372, Midlands 377, East Anglia 124, North 806, west Scotland 229, Wales 112 and Northern Ireland 58.

Miss Rantzen said it cost £65,000 a year to keep one telephone line open. Individual donations of £1 would pay for the cost of a 10-minute call. Companies are also being canvassed for support.

Donations should be sent to Childline, Freepost 1111, London EC4B 4BB.

Outdated equipment and secrecy blamed

By Ian Smith

The report on Sellafield was last night welcomed by Mr Bill Maxwell, secretary of the joint shop stewards committee, which represents more than 7,000 workers at the plant.

The report held no surprises, Mr Maxwell said. It merely pinpointed the problems which both the workers and the management were aware of and were dealing with.

Outdated equipment at the plant still existed only because of unwillingness by successive Labour and Conservative governments to pour millions of pounds into the provision of new equipment.

To update the plant, Mr Maxwell said, would cost several millions of pounds, but that was only peanuts to a company which was making high profits.

Of the five incidents at the plant this year the Health and Safety Executive said only one was potentially serious.

Mr Maxwell spoke of workers' reassurance that warning systems installed some years previously had proved capable of meeting the emergency.

"Because of undue secrecy the public have been bombarded by wild and hysterical claims made by opponents of nuclear energy," Mr Maxwell said.

"What they must realize is that as someone who has worked at the plant for 31 years and who cares deeply about his wife, children and grandchildren, there is no way that I or fellow workers would not be shouting from the rooftops if something was seriously wrong."

Mr Maxwell said that since the mid-1970s union officials had been pressing for a reduction in the radioactive exposure deemed safe by the International Medical Council.

That safety limit had now been reached. Liquid discharge had also dropped by 300 per cent since 1975. "We are not satisfied yet because we realize we have to be whiter than white but that dream is fast becoming realization."

Mr Bill Minto, chairman of the Sellafield Local Liaison Committee, an environmental watchdog group set up to monitor the nuclear plant, said a special meeting would be called to discuss the Health and Safety Executive findings in either late January or early February.

"The report comes as no great surprise. Work has already started to put right those things highlighted in this investigation, in particular the Magnox plant which they widely say is 20 or 30 years out of date."

"The experts have told us that if money is spent now on modern equipment then the plant have a safe and useful life for the next decade."

Mr Minto was pleased that management had accepted the report's criticisms and taken steps to implement its recommendations.

He issued a warning, however, that his committee would be keeping a watch on the implementation of the recommendations that more staff be taken on and better training be provided.

70 have harmful meningitis strain

Initial results from a huge meningitis screening exercise in Gloucestershire show that 70 people are carrying the new strain of the brain disease which has killed three children in the area (Jill Sherman writes).

Last month researchers set up an ambitious programme to swab throats and carry out blood tests on the 6,400 people in Stonehouse, Stroud, where the rate of meningitis is now 14 times the national average.

Results from the swabbing show that 700 people carried a variety of meningitis strains but only 70 carried the B15 strain.

Dr James Stuart, senior registrar in community medicine for Gloucester Health Authority said yesterday that the overall number of carriers - 11 per cent of the population - matched national figures and were quite normal. It did not mean these people would go on to develop the disease.

"Many people carry the disease without contracting it or passing it on and they may only carry it for a few days, weeks or months," Dr Stuart said.

He could not say whether the extent of B15 strain was normal as no national studies had been done on this strain.



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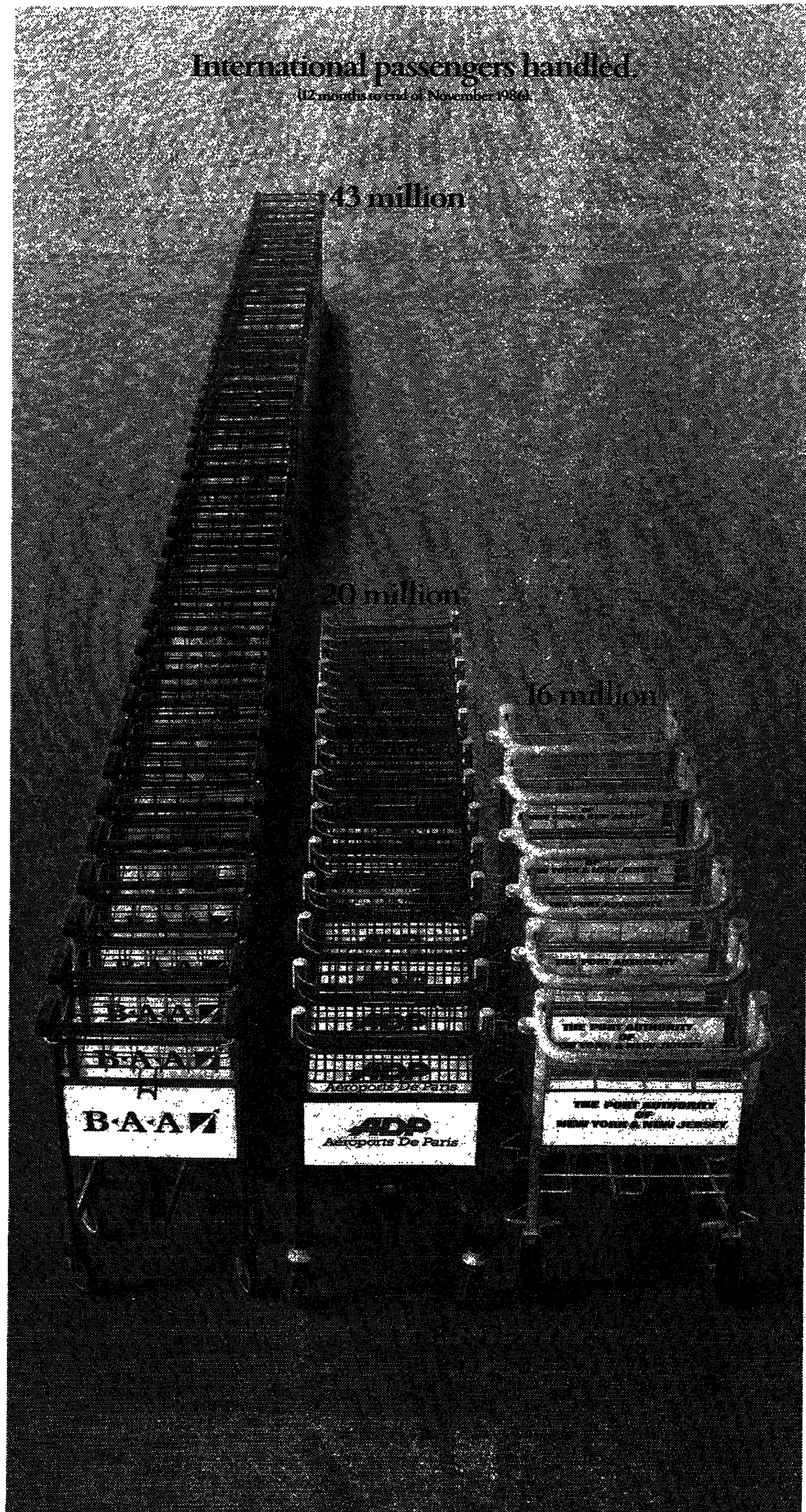
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UNIVERSITY



# Environment lobby accused of halting aviation progress

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Government was yesterday accused of "playing to the gallery" by making short-term decisions aimed at pacifying environmental pressure groups which could severely damage the long-term future of British aviation and the travelling public.

Airports capacity in the South-east will be filled by the end of the century, yet ministers refuse to "grasp the nettle" of planning for more runways because it is a long-term problem which they can hand on to future ministers, according to the Air Transport Users Committee.

The committee, set up by the Civil Aviation Authority to represent the views of the travelling public, wants a long-term air transport policy which would extend beyond the lifetime of any individual government.

"Civil aviation is not an ordinary industry subject to the forces of the market place," the committee's chairman, Mr John Cox, said.

"Government plays a major role. Unfortunately, governments of both parties have denied that role the importance it deserves. There has been too much playing to the gallery for short-term political considerations and a lack of long-term decision making."

"They take far too much notice of the so-called environmentalists because they make a great deal of noise, are articulate and are very effective in lobbying ministers. The Government takes notice of those who shout loudest."

He gave several examples of short-term decisions which caused more problems in the long term.

● The ending of the Heathrow-Gatwick helicopter link which both airlines and travellers regarded as vital but which was scrapped because of complaints about its noise.

● An analysis of competition in civil aviation generally which was finally dealt with as simply a battle between British Airways and British Caledonian.

● Maintaining Prestwick as a Scottish international gateway rather than developing an international hub airport which would have been far more effective in keeping Scottish air services.

● Decisions not to build a second runway at Gatwick or at Stansted when there is clear evidence that such a runway will be needed shortly.

● A delay in the completion of Gatwick's second passenger terminal which is expected to cause huge delays and chaos to holidaymakers next summer.

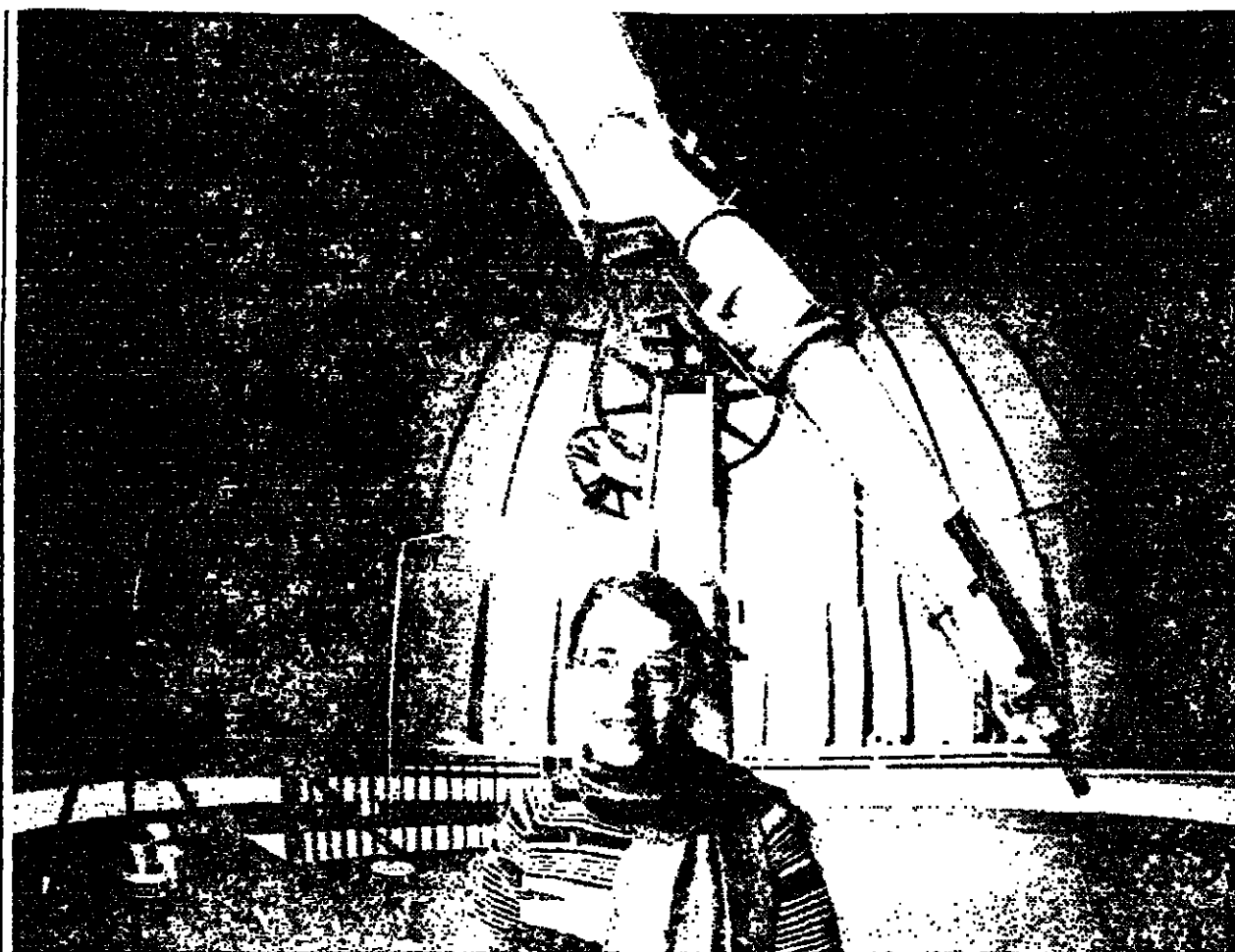
The committee also attacked airlines for failing to provide information which would enable a proper debate to be held on European air fares.

"We as consumers must have better access to this information," Mr Cox said. "This is something government could facilitate. We are no longer prepared to tolerate the smokescreen put up by some airlines in Europe that is simply designed to cover up their inefficient use of manpower and resources for which we travellers pay."

The committee is also continuing to press for the early introduction of smoke hoods on all passenger aircraft which could be worn in the event of a fire and which, it is claimed, would have saved many lives in the recent Manchester airport disaster.

Further research work, probably involving members of the Armed Forces is now planned at Oxford University to refine the proposals for smoke hoods. A decision is expected by the Civil Aviation Authority next year.

But there is still concern among experts that the smoke hoods could cause more problems as people struggle to put them on and impede others trying to escape.



Dr Fiona Vincent with a 10in refracting telescope built in 1871 (Photograph: Arthur Foster).

## Starry show will attract the crowds

By Kenneth Gosling

A shower of shooting stars this weekend is bound to attract an interested crowd to Britain's only full-time public observatory at Dundee.

It will be nothing new to Dr Fiona Vincent, city astronomer for the past four years, who has been gratified to note the growing numbers of visitors to the Mills Observatory at Balcay Park, which was given to Dundee in 1889 by Mr John Mills, an amateur astronomer.

Halley's Comet had something to do with increasing the popularity of the subject - in spite of poor conditions 800

visitors managed to see it. But Dr Vincent is rather glad things are back to normal, as the whole show is run by herself and one assistant. She admits that Halley's Comet put rather a strain on the system.

A measure of the observatory's continuing popularity is shown by the fact that only five nights are left in March for party visits.

During the winter 100 people can be found viewing on a clear night through various telescopes available to them. The astronomy society has 50 members.

## Dinosaur helps to win museum cash

The dinosaur found itself in the middle of a sophisticated "hard sell" marketing campaign at the Natural History Museum in London yesterday (Kenneth Gosling writes).

Museum officials called in newspapers and advertising agencies to launch a "world first" in boosting its services and trying to close the financial gaps which threaten it through to 1991.

As school parties wound their way among the glass cases, a plan to issue two million passports next year, coinciding with the introduction of museum charges on April 1, was unveiled as a new

initiative to generate more funds.

Every visitor, whether paying or not, will be given a passport, each containing special offers, discounts and competitions; news about current and forthcoming events; a mini-map; suggestions for activities, and, of course, advertising.

From next April admission will continue to be free between 4.30 and 6pm as well as to school parties and educational institutions.

Everyone else will pay £2 a head, half price for pensioners and "non-party" children.

## Gold rush fear after court's decision

Irish archaeologists fear a "gold rush" by metal detector enthusiasts after a High Court "finder's keepers" ruling which could possibly add Ir£5.5 million to the bank balance of a wealthy farmer.

That is the value the judge put on the Derrynaflan hoard, unearthed in February 1980 at Littleton bog in Tipperary by Mr Michael Webb, aged 58, and his son Michael, aged 22, as they prospected near a fifth century Christian ruin with a metal detector.

Mr Webb refused a reward of Ir£10,000 and took legal action for repossession of a complete ninth century altar set, the centrepiece of which is the jewel-studded gold and silver Derrynaflan chalice, restored for Ir£23,000 by the British Museum. He won, and can keep the treasure or be paid the value.

Although the Irish National Museum has lodged an appeal to the Supreme Court, its director, Dr Brendan O'Riordan, and other archaeologists are clearly worried at the gold rush prospect.

He has said that he would have preferred the hoard to have remained underground for another 100 years, rather than have it found with a metal detector.

He fears there will be a mass plundering of monastic sites throughout the republic and is worried that the High Court ruling could lead to hundreds of litigation cases for objects previously found and handed over to the museum.

After the High Court ruling, Dr O'Riordan said he felt confident that the Supreme Court would take another view.

He disclosed that the museum had originally offered Ir£200,000 to the Webbs in compensation, but this was overturned by the government, and reduced to Ir£10,000.

## Police told that race is a priority

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police forces should make clear to ethnic minorities that tackling racial incidents is a priority, the Government said yesterday.

In reply to a House of Commons report on racially motivated violence, the Government said it is to carry out a study of the incidence of racial violence in 1987 and research the response of police and other agencies to it.

The Commons home affairs committee's recommendation that police should press charges against attackers, rather than rely on private prosecutions by the victims, is being discussed with the crown prosecution service and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

An inter-departmental working group, reporting to the Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention, has called for more police action to tackle racial attacks.

National statistics showing the number of racial attacks are not available but the Runnymede Trust, a

campaigning pressure group, estimates there are 70,000 incidents a year.

The Government welcomed the home affairs committee's report and said that, in spite of initiatives already taken, there was "no room for complacency".

The reply said: "Where one community lives in fear of abuse or attack by members of another, a wedge is driven between them."

"To prevent continuing damage to community relations, the Government believes it is important that visible and vigorous action is taken to combat racial attacks and harassment."

"It is vital to secure the confidence of the ethnic minorities in the institutions of society and to signal clearly to those who would perpetrate such behaviour that their actions will not be tolerated."

"The long-term effects on our society of an undercurrent of racial intolerance and violence must not be underestimated," the government reply said.

## Doctor 'rejected patient'

A heroin addict was refused treatment by a Harley Street psychiatrist when she lost her job, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Ann Dally, aged 60, stopped helping the woman after she ran up a bill for more than £200, the General Medical Council committee was told.

The former hospital telephonist, identified only as Miss B, said: "I was not formally discharged. She just said don't come unless you have the money to pay me."

Miss B said Dr Dally stopped treating her soon after she lost her job in April last year. It was only after Miss B went to a detoxification unit that she beat her addiction, the council's professional conduct committee was told.

Miss B, aged 28, from Buckinghamshire, said Dr Dally was "renowned" for not referring her patients to drying out centres.

The committee was told Miss B and her boy friend visited Dr Dally for two and a half years at her surgery in Devonshire Place, Marylebone, central London. She charged the couple £45 per consultation. She added: "I only ever spent five or 10 minutes with Dr Dally and I was never in London for more than half an hour."

Dr Dally denies two charges of serious professional misconduct by irresponsibly prescribing the heroin substitute methadone and not properly checking on the background of one of her patients. The hearing continues.

## Call to license crossbows to stop rustlers

The Farmers' Union of Wales yesterday called for crossbows to be licensed in an attempt to stop sheep rustlers.

Mr Brian Edwards, the Fuw Gwent branch secretary, said crossbows are used because they are silent and deadly. He said thefts often go undetected for long periods as rustlers take only a few sheep from each farm.

A private member's Bill was unveiled in Parliament this week to control the sale of crossbows, but Mr Edwards said they should also be licensed so owners could be traced.

## Hotel is sold for £2.6m

Ladbroke's have bought the 54-bedroom Felbridge Hotel at East Grinstead, West Sussex, for £2.6 million.

Proposals for the hotel, which began as tearooms in 1935 and was rebuilt after a fire in 1981, include adding 20 bedrooms and conference and training facilities.

## Slim vehicle

A slimline fire engine costing £38,000 has been delivered to Gloucestershire Fire Brigade for use in the county's narrow lanes.

## Protection for Civil Servants criticized

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The chairmen of Commons select committees are to produce a "robust" report highlighting their opposition to government plans to instruct Civil Servants not to answer questions about their conduct.

The main thrust of the report is understood to have been agreed unanimously at a private meeting of the liaison committee of chairmen yesterday, and the final version will be published as soon as possible.

The report will reject any attempt to curb the powers of select committees, and argue that the Government's proposed instructions would in some instances make their work impossible.

The report will concentrate on the practical implications of the instructions, but it is supported by another report published by the Treasury and

Civil Service Committee earlier this week which outlined the constitutional reasons why select committees had the power to demand what answers they wanted.

The Government tagged its proposals on to the end of its reply to the defence committee's investigation into the Westland affair, during which MPs unsuccessfully sought to question senior Civil Servants at the heart of the controversy.

The chairmen believe this move was ill-considered and motivated more by pique than common sense, and that the Government will have to back down.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, has promised that the instructions will not be formally issued until both the Liaison and Treasury and Civil Service committees have been consulted.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Guerrillas 'kill 1,000 tribesmen'

Dhaka - Bangladeshi Government officials claimed here yesterday that at least 1,000 people had been killed since 1975 by tribal guerrillas fighting for secession in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Laureate's peace call

Oslo (Reuter) - The winner of the 1986 Nobel peace prize, the Romanian-born Jewish author and human rights campaigner Elie Wiesel, yesterday called for better relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Falklands Israeli air permits

Madrid - Spanish fishing fleets are expected to be given 35 licences to operate in the fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands for the season beginning in February (Richard Wigg writes).

Israeli air attack

Beirut - Israeli Air Force jets yesterday attacked Palestinian guerrilla bases in Syrian-controlled territory in northern Lebanon (Juan Carlos Gamao writes).

Concession on Sikhs

Delhi - Britain has agreed during two days of discussions with the Indian Government to look at the possibility of changing British laws to crack down on Sikhs who are encouraging terrorist activities in India (Michael Hasuina writes).



Junta pair called

Athens - A parliamentary committee has decided to summon two jailed Greek Junta leaders, Colonel George Papadopoulos and Brigadier Dimitris Ioannides, to testify in an investigation into the 1974 Greek-backed coup on Cyprus (A Correspondent writes).

Veteran deported

Bangkok - An American hero of the Vietnam war, former Colonel James "Bo" Grizz, was deported from Thailand for the second time in three weeks (Neil Kelly writes).

South African censorship

Newspapers faced with blanket of silence under Pretoria's rules

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's harsh new press controls, announced yesterday in the form of a proclamation signed by President Botha in the Government Gazette, impose a sweeping form of pre-publication censorship which has never previously been resorted to in this country.

The new measures, which apply to both local and foreign journalists based here, list a wide range of "subversive statements" and anti-government activity which cannot be written about unless the reports have been cleared in advance by government officials.

Although statements in Parliament will still be privileged, the regulations will for the first time restrict the reporting of public court proceedings in which final judgement has not yet been given.

The Government's Bureau of Information is to set up an office, manned 24 hours a day, to which journalists will be expected to submit, by telex, articles or parts of articles containing matter falling within the ambit of the new censorship rules.

The regulation on blank spaces in newspapers and magazines reads in full: "No person shall publish any publication in which any blank space or any obliteration or deletion of part of the text of a report or of a photograph or part of a photograph appears, if that blank space, obliteration or deletion, as may appear from an express statement or a sign or symbol in that publication or from the particular context in which the blank space, obliteration or deletion appears, is intended to be understood as a reference to the effect of a provision of these regulations."

Photographic material has had to be deleted at the request of the censors. It appears, however, that they will be allowed to carry statements advising readers that copy has been censored.

Among the "subversive statements" which it will be an offence to publish without authorization are those "calculated to have the effect of inciting or encouraging members of the public" to take part in: any unlawful "gathering, concourse or procession of any number of persons"; a physical attack on security force members, local authority officials (for instance, black township councillors) and their families; any form of boycott (for instance, of white-owned shops, particular products, schools); civil disobedience (e.g. refusing to pay rents) stayaways from work or illegal strikes; the activities of any "alternative structure", a reference to the "people's courts" and grass-roots "civic associations" which have sprung up in black townships across the country in opposition to government-created bodies such as township councils; agitation against compulsory military service.

All reporting of these activities will also be subject to official clearance. For example, it will be an offence to publish details of the time and place of unlawful gatherings or to report on the effectiveness of boycotts, work stayaways and the like.

Present regulations prohibiting journalists from being on the scene, or at a place within sight, of any arrest, restricted gathering or security force action, of from reporting security force action, without official permission are included in the new measures.

Publish - and be banned

From Our Own Correspondent

South African editors and journalists, and foreign correspondents based here, are still trying to digest the full implications of the sweeping new press controls imposed yesterday, which are far in excess of anything they have previously experienced.

"We will publish as much as we can, but with due prudence," Mr Anthony Heard, editor of the Cape Times, said.

"We must not take this lying down. I think there could still be room for challenging the regulations in the courts. We are still not quite in the Cambodia league, though we have clearly crossed a watershed."

highly creative advocacy, and sympathetic judges, to get round the new controls. Pretoria's aim, beyond much doubt, is to prevent anything except government-approved news and opinion being published about matters covered by the omnibus term "unrest" - which includes not only actual violence and riots, but a wide range of extra-parliamentary opposition, protest and civil disobedience.

The previous regulations were onerous enough. They prohibited all journalists from being on the scene of unrest, or from reporting the actions of the security forces without official permission, though it is fair to acknowledge that they were not enforced to the letter in the case of foreign journalists, and were always more stringent on paper than in practice.

Writing journalists, at least, could still report at second hand, using their own contacts, on unrest incidents. Reporting of boycotts, strikes and other forms of protest covered by the new regulations were also not subject to any form of pre-publication vetting, as will now be the case.

been infuriated by the device used by Johannesburg's evening newspaper, The Star, of printing, deadpan, the official version of police action alongside the usually radically different version given by township residents.

All such reports will now have to be sifted through the Bureau of Information. This will limit severely any uncensored reporting not only of unrest but also of the activities of organizations like the United Democratic Front, the broad alliance of grass-roots anti-apartheid organizations.

Papers like the Weekly Mail, started by journalists who formerly worked on the now defunct Rand Daily Mail, and New Nation, which is funded by the Catholic church and edited by a black political activist, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, will find it particularly hard to operate as they specialize in covering black resistance to the government.

Name of the game in French

Paris - What is the most popular name for a child in France today? Marcel? Jeanne? Jean-Pierre? Odette? No, those are all now definitely passé. Emilie and Julien top the popularity charts, with Anglo-Saxon names such as Kevin and Marion gaining ground.

Astonishment on Capitol Hill as congressmen investigate the Iran arms scandal

CIA head reveals Canada connection

Washington - "pretty universal astonishment" at Mr Casey's testimony, and "a lot of open mouths in the room". Another member said the puzzle was "very far from complete".

The various committees investigating the Iran arms deal and diversion of funds to the Contras in Nicaragua are:

in an effort to bring peace to the Middle East, he wrote to Mr Robert McFarlane, then the National Security Adviser, on July 1 last year, offering to put him in contact with Iranian moderates. He said copies of the letter were sent to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.

Mr Robert McFarlane, former National Security Adviser, on Monday, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North appeared before it on Tuesday, but took the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions. The committee is also seeking a wide range of documents concerning the case.

He said after the letter was sent, Mr Manushir Ghorbanifar, an Iranian arms dealer, and other Iranians met Mr David Kimche, then Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Israeli arms dealers in Hamburg. After that meeting, Mr Kimche met Mr McFarlane and got what the Israelis saw as a go-ahead for the sales, he said.

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UN debate fails to cool strife

New York - The war of words between Nicaragua and Honduras has escalated in the United Nations Security Council, despite efforts by the Sandinista Government to avoid a confrontation on the ground by playing down the Honduran role in the weekend strafing of Nicaraguan targets.

Kidnap shadow on Basque politics

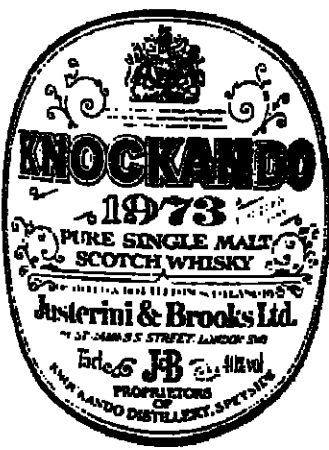
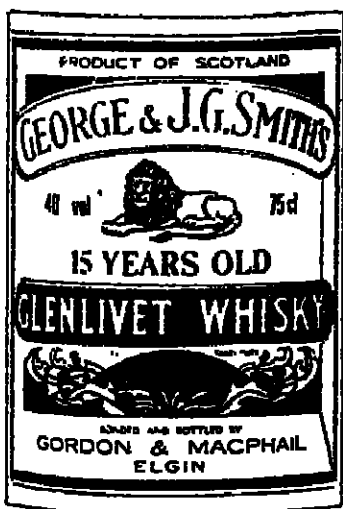
Madrid - Senior José Benegas, the Socialist leader in the Basque country, yesterday began negotiations to form a new government after last month's general election against the grim background of a suspected Eta kidnapping.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

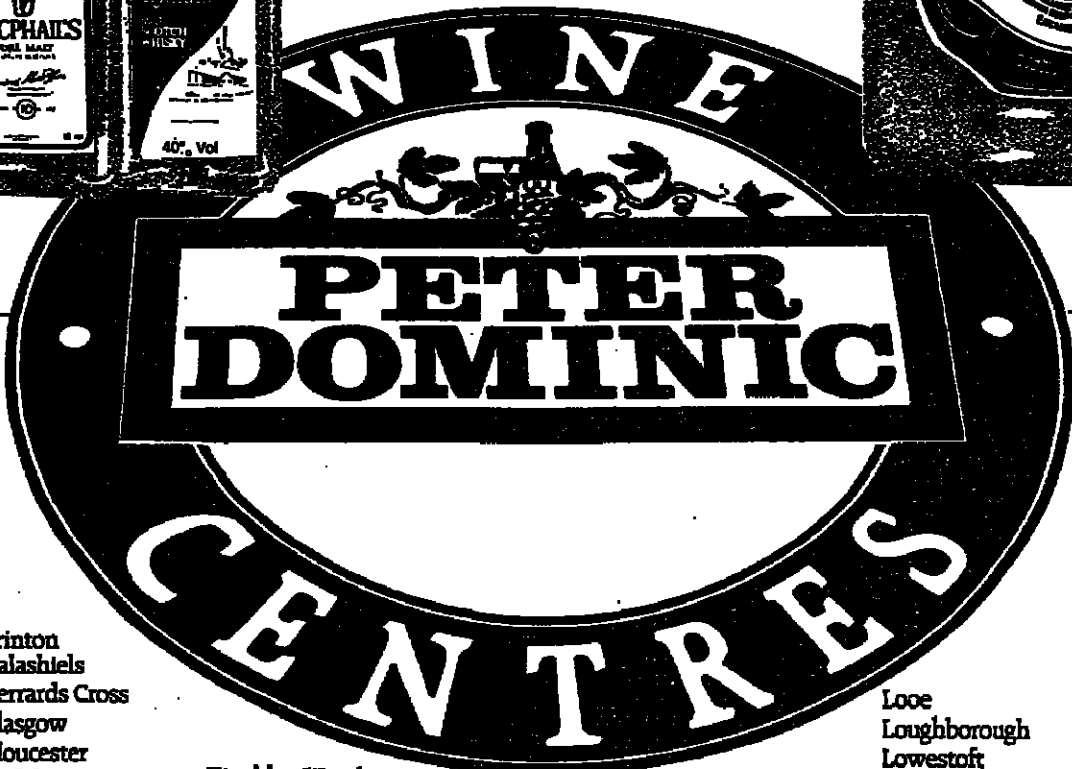


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Wallington  
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# Bonn holds civil servant for link with 'spy' and charges secretary

From John England, Bonn

A high-ranking civil servant in the West German Defence Ministry has been arrested on suspicion of spying for East Germany, while at the same time it was revealed yesterday that a former secretary in the Federal President's Office has been charged with spying for the KGB.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that the civil servant, named as Herr Jürgen Westphal, aged 48, had worked in the department of the armed forces chief-of-staff since 1980 on planning studies. He had been under surveillance for months and was arrested on Tuesday.

A military counter-intelligence agent said that he could have done serious damage to Bonn because he had access to military planning and to the armed forces computer.

Dr Kurt Rebmann, the Federal Public Prosecutor, said that Herr Westphal was suspected of having offered to work for an "eastern" secret service. He had had a two-day

meeting in Vienna in August with a man calling himself Dr Sternberg, who had visited his home in Bonn a few weeks before.

Dr Sternberg, who had introduced himself as a representative of a foreign arms firm, had asked Herr Westphal to work for his company "on the side", he said.

Dr Rebmann said that so far the questioning of Herr Westphal suggested that he had not carried out any espionage work before his arrest.

He added that the case of Frau Margarete Höke, aged 51, who was a secretary in the Federal President's Office from June 1959 until her arrest in August 1985 amid a wave of spy scandals in Bonn, was much more serious.

He told a press conference in Karlsruhe that he had raised charges against her on November 29 on suspicion of having spied for the KGB from 1968 until the time of her arrest.

Between 1972 and July

1985, he said, Frau Höke had had access to more than 1,700 documents classified confidential, secret or top secret. Most had come from the foreign, interior and defence ministries as well as from the chancellery. They included reports on Cabinet meetings and federal intelligence service affairs.

Dr Rebmann said Frau Höke had given her KGB spy-master copies of many of the documents, including briefings for successive federal presidents on foreign and defence questions. She had also betrayed secret reports from Bonn's diplomatic missions around the world as well as information on civil defence measures in Germany.

Cabinet decisions on the appointments or promotions of senior officials were also passed on to the KGB, he said.

The charges against her have been raised in the Düsseldorf High Court, where she is expected to go on trial early next year.

# Life-and-death struggle with a lioness



From Michael Hartnack, Harare

Paul Bekker, aged 32, a Zimbabwean farmer, recovering in a hospital bed in Harare from wounds he received after stabbing a lioness to the heart in a 10-minute life-and-death struggle. His 16-month-old daughter, Carolee, is with him. Mr Bekker, of Marondera, was one of a 16-member party from the Dutch Reformed Church who were combining Scripture lessons with nature study on a canoe safari down the Zambezi river. They camped on Tuesday at Rakomeshe Rest Hut, downstream from the Chirundu border post,

between Zimbabwe and Zambia, when Mr Bekker and two companions, the Rev John Gosthuisen and Mr Piet Britz, were woken by the lioness, who forced her way into their tent through the door and seized Mr Bekker by the leg.

His companions rushed out of the hut and brought Mr Bekker a hunting knife, with which he stabbed the lioness to the heart. He was given immediate first aid by two medical students from another canoe party and rushed to hospital in Harare.

# US says Israelis too quick to shoot

From Iaa Murray, Jerusalem

The United States has told Israel that it considers an excessive use was made of guns in dealing with the unrest in the occupied territories over the past week.

The political officer at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv, Mr Roger Harrison, passed on this view to Mr Michael Shilo, director of the North America division at the Foreign Ministry, during a meeting to seek clarification about what led to four people being killed and 21 others wounded, some seriously, by gunfire. Another 37 needed treatment for injuries.

Mr Harrison accepted that there had been great provocation to the security forces trying to control the often violent demonstrations, but questioned the need for troops to fire live ammunition so often to break them up.

The meeting, at a relatively low diplomatic level, was arranged after the United States refused to veto a UN Security Council resolution this week which condemned Israel over events in the territories.

Demonstrations and protests continued yesterday both in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, although on a much-reduced scale. The worst reported incident was at a UN school in the Gaza Strip, which was hit by a number of Israeli soldiers; troops fired several gas canisters at girls in the playground after stones had been thrown.

During the week-long disturbances Israeli security forces have made 176 arrests, largely for stone-throwing. Six of those captured, from the Tulkarm refugee camp west of Nablus, have already been sentenced to up to six months imprisonment, along with fines of between £800 and £1,200 each.

On the Israeli side, an inquiry is continuing into who fired the shot which killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy at Balata refugee camp near Nablus on Monday. The Israeli army insists that its patrol there fired only after the boy was taken dying to hospital. Palestinians are adamant that nobody in the camp has a gun.

Investigators are trying to trace a car, seen near the camp at the time of the shooting, which may have been carrying militant Israeli settlers. The settlements in areas like this, deep in the West Bank, are usually the homes of militant nationalists. They are allowed to carry guns for protection, and Palestinians claim they are only too eager to use them.

The wave of violent protests has roused the anger of the settler movement at a time when it is growing suspicious that the government will go back on its undertaking to build six more such colonies in the occupied territories.

Leaders of Gush Emunim, the militant settler movement, are threatening to organize strikes and sit-ins where they want to settle if the government does not honour its commitment quickly. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, has now promised: "If the economic situation allows it, Likud will act for the establishment of additional settlements."

# French in new atoll atom test

Wellington (Reuter) - The French Government yesterday exploded its eighth nuclear device this year at the South Pacific test site on Mururoa Atoll, according to New Zealand scientists. The blast was the 83rd since 1975.

# Cold cash

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - Argentina became the first country to open a bank in Antarctica when the state-owned Bank of the National Territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands opened a branch at Esperanza military base.

# Weighty move

Ankara (Reuter) - Turkey has granted political asylum to the weightlifting champion of Bulgaria, Naim Suleymanov, an ethnic Turk who disappeared in Australia this week, Foreign Ministry officials said.

# Pope's plea

Vatican City (Reuter) - The Pope, in his 1987 peace message, begged terrorists to give up violence even if their cause was just, saying that they undermined the very fabric of society.

# Cheat's end

Peking (Reuter) - Zjang Zhiping, a factory employee who embezzled 117,000 yuan (£21,700) by issuing false receipts and stealing his company's coal, has been executed, China's official Central Television Station said.

# Iraq attack

Baghdad (Reuter) - Iraq said that its military aircraft had attacked a large naval target - its usual term for an oil tanker or cargo ship - in the Gulf, according to a military spokesman.

# Copper Belt still tense as army takes control

From Michael Hartnack, Harare

The Zambian Army was said yesterday to be in control of the tense situation on the country's Copper Belt after a week of rioting in which eight people have died and hundreds of others were injured.

Pitched battles have raged on a scale unprecedented even in the violence before Zambia gained independence from Britain 22 years ago. Public anger exploded at a 110 per cent increase in the price of maize meal, the country's staple food.

Only sporadic incidents of stone throwing were reported yesterday in the main Copper Belt towns of Ndola, Kitwe and Mufulira, where security forces maintained the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed by President Kaunda.

No unrest was reported in the volatile squatter townships around the Zambian capital, but some traders in Lusaka were preparing shutters in case the looting spread. Members of Zambia's small Asian community have been the main victims of the attacks on shops.

Mr Kaunda maintained his ban on outgoing traffic at Zambia's land borders, stranding dozens of Zimbabwean transport drivers en route from Harare to Zaire.

The Government said that the border closure was to stop loot being smuggled from the country. However, Zambia's airports were open and flights were departing as usual.

The rioting was triggered by an increase from about 3.8 kwacha to 8.2 kwacha (19p-41p) for a kilogram of maize meal. The kwacha has lost 90 per cent of its value over the past year and is now worth about 5p.

The subsidy on maize meal maintained by the Government, the last vestige of a policy of using copper revenues to buy cheap imported food - was slashed in order to secure a loan of \$280 million (about £187 million) from the International Monetary Fund.

Zambia has now accrued about £2.7 billion in foreign debt and is faced with a slump in revenues from copper, its only important export. Local farming has been discouraged by years of price undercutting by unrestricted imports from developed countries.

Observers in Harare are dismayed by the outbreak of violence, which for 14 years withstood a sanctions war with Rhodesia, when an economic confrontation with South Africa was imminent.

At the height of the copper belt rioting the forces used shotgun to blast their way through barricades when tear-gas and baton charges failed.

Leading article, page 19

# Soviet boost to pull-out talks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

A Soviet effort to speed negotiations on withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan appeared to be under way yesterday.

Mr Abdul Sattar, head of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry, said after discussions in Moscow with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that a timetable for withdrawal could be agreed soon.

Dr Muhammad Najib, the Afghan Prime Minister, was expected to arrive in Moscow

yesterday. The two visits are the latest in a series of indications that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev may be serious about wanting a settlement.

Recent signs include his statement that Moscow would welcome a neutral government in Kabul, and the fact that during his visit to India Soviet television broadcast a press conference which included hostile questions about the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

Full agreement has been

reached on United Nations monitoring of the withdrawal of 110,000 Soviet troops and on plans to cut the supply lines of Afghanistan's Islamic guerrillas, the Mujahidin.

Senior Diego Cordovez, the UN Under-Secretary-General, was reported yesterday to have said that the timetable for withdrawal would be the only problem remaining when proximity talks between Afghan and Pakistani officials resume in Geneva in February.

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Annual General Meeting

Subscribing Lodges and Governors of the Royal Masonic Hospital are asked to note that the Annual General Meeting due to take place on Wednesday, 23rd January 1987, has been postponed until a date to be fixed by the new Board of Management, not being later than 24th April 1987.

A notice convening the Annual General Meeting giving details of time and venue will be circulated in due course.

L.A. Lashbrooke  
Chair Executive Officer.  
December 1986.



Economic crisis in the Philippines

Two years of hard slog will need international support

From David Watts Manila

The Philippines is struggling for economic survival, and its ministers give it only two years to try to avoid a catastrophe.

There are, however, occasional glimmers of hope that the Government seizes, like the 2.5 per cent improvement in the gross national product in the third quarter.

Government believes that a GNP growth rate of 6.5 per cent will be needed.

On the credit side, the Government of President Aquino has the prospect of political stability with the departure from the Government of the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile.

Although new investment in the first 10 months of the year was down on the previous year, Mr Jose Concepcion, Minister of Trade and Industry, says that for the first time in many years Filipinos invested more in their country than did foreigners.

On the debit side, high hopes of more Japanese investment raised during Mrs Aquino's visit to Tokyo have been dampened by the kidnap of the local manager of the Mitsui Trading Company.

The Japanese, however, are expected to resume their interest once the situation is clarified. The number of strikes is up by 61 per cent over last year, but the number

of man-days lost by only 8 per cent.

Sorting out the mess left by Mr Marcos has taken time. But now a programme for the economy has been agreed which will run to the end of Mrs Aquino's tenure in 1992.

The Philippines is a classic example of how World Bank and IMF development schemes and loans can result in a Third World country's boring itself into a seemingly bottomless pit of debt.

Mrs Solita Monsod, Minister of Economic Planning, argues that the highly-paid representatives in Manila of international banks and institutions, who must have known that Mr Marcos and his cronies were creaming off huge portions of each new loan, must now take some of the responsibility for the present situation.

She demands repudiation, or at least a further moratorium, on some of the Philippines' debts. Forty per cent of the 1987 budget will go to finance payments on the \$26,000 million (£18,000 million) national debt, and unless some of that is repudiated, or much more generous terms permitted, there will not be the money to develop the industry needed to get the country back on its feet.

Talks with the IMF have been delayed and are not expected to resume until early next year. Negotiations with the Paris Club, which includes Britain, are due to resume later this month.

It is hard to believe that in the 1960s the Philippines was one of Asia's bright economic hopes, second only to Japan. Today the rest of Asia, apart from Vietnam and Cambodia, has left it hopelessly adrift after 20 wasted years under President Marcos.

The electronics revolution has come and gone, and the Philippines has picked up little of the sunrise industry that goes with it. Even in such basics as textiles Taiwan and South Korea have advantages in almost everything except labour costs.

The country has little manufacturing base, having lived for years off the sale of fruit, sugar and coconuts.

Mrs Monsod argues that a manufacturing base must be built from scratch, and that it is impossible to do so while so much of the country's money is being eaten up by outstanding debt.



Communist guerrillas in the Philippines joyfully raising their guns in the Bataan town of Samal, 33 miles west of the capital, to celebrate the 60-day ceasefire agreed with the government armed forces of President Corazon Aquino earlier this week.

Tasman defence talks on the rocks

From Richard Long Wellington

Attempts by the New Zealand Government to expand defence relationships with Australia appeared to be on the rocks yesterday after a day of discussions between Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Hayden, who arrived in New Zealand saying that the defence relationship had gone about as far as it could and that Australia could not replace the United States' role, made clear that there were no proposals to expand links.

He said that newspaper reports had led him to expect this, and that such an expansion would imply increased defence spending, but there had been no concrete proposal from New Zealand.

The comments led to some confusion about New Zealand's defence plans in view of earlier comments from Mr Lange, Mr Frank O'Flynn, Minister of Defence, and other ministers that a strengthened defence relationship with Australia was sought to replace, in part, the loss of the American connection.

Opposition stakes claim in Trinidad

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago is preparing for general elections on Monday which are likely to be the closest and most bitterly fought in 30 years. The ruling People's National Movement (PNM), which swept to power in 1956 under Dr Eric Williams and has been there ever since, is struggling to beat off a challenge from the first unified and broadly-based opposition party it has ever faced - the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), led by a former lieutenant of Dr Williams, Mr A.N. Robinson.

An opinion poll published last weekend gave the NAR a lead of 55 per cent to 23 per cent in voting intentions; and Mr Robinson a lead of 45 per cent to 18 over the Prime Minister, Mr George Chambers, in popularity ratings.

However, the PNM has a 26-10 majority in Parliament, and even the 29 per cent swing reported by the poll may not erode that lead.

The election comes as the oil-based economy is in serious decline, due partly to declining production and a stagnant refining sector, but also to the fall of oil prices, which slashed national revenue and wiped out the local currency gains of devaluation a year ago.

Unemployment, officially at 17 per cent, has become the most serious issue as a series of business closures and layoffs continues.

Foreign exchange reserves have been steadily depleted; the trade surplus is declining; and the Government has been experiencing cash flow problems.

Alternative sources of revenue, such as tourism, export manufacturing and petrochemicals, are still far from generating new income at the levels required. The annual budget, normally presented this month, has been postponed.

92,000 names - more than 10 per cent of the electorate - to the supplemental list.

Mr Chambers, who succeeded Dr Williams in 1981, is presenting the PNM as the natural party of government, the party of stability, continuity and good financial management.

The PNM manifesto relies heavily on its 30-year track record. The NAR pictures the ruling party as weary and secretive after three decades in power - bankrupt of ideas, riddled with corruption, and guilty of mismanaging the wealth of the country's 1974-83 oil boom. It promises renewed energy and action as well as such carrots as tax concessions and an amnesty for illegal Caribbean immigrants.

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Mr Chambers: behind in the popularity polls.

Solidarity faces hi-tech accusation by police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish equivalent of MI5 cleared the vaulting horse and parallel bars from a police gymnasium and loaded it with confiscated Western bugs, high-frequency transmitters and code books, as part of a concerted campaign to show that the Solidarity underground is now little more than a spy ring.

The move coincided with a government appeal to all those still active in underground opposition to give themselves up before the end of the year, when the amnesty expires.

Colonel Jerzy Karpacz, a lawyer and senior member of the Polish counter-espionage department, said Western secret services were involved in the financing of shipments of expensive high-tech equipment to the underground.

On one side of the gymnasium, where off-duty secret policemen would normally have done their press-ups, was a pile of contraband confiscated from two Scandinavian trucks which were recently intercepted at the border.

The equipment included West German offset presses, 4,000 plates - which, according to Polish counter-spies could have been used to produce 40 million pages of subversive words - 20 photocopiers, several hundred kilos of printing ink disguised as paint, piles of Polish emigre documents, Polish emigre transmitters for high-grade Solidarity programming on to Polish televisions, and devices for listening to police and military frequencies.

walls there were weapons - a simple metal pipe gun, gas for paralysing assailants - and Tandy computers, said by the officials to have been snatched during raids on former underground leaders, such as Mr Zbigniew Bujak. Espionage equipment included bugging devices, code books and photocopies of a classified book listing Polish trucks and planes.

The aim was to show that underground activity and spying are part of the same spectrum. It was supposed to demonstrate that Solidarity probably could not continue if it were not for Western support.

Colonel Karpacz, echoing allegations in the regional Swedish press, said the main Swedish smuggler, caught on November 29, had aroused the suspicion of the Swedish police before leaving on the ferry to Poland.

But the customs authorities had checked with higher authorities - the implication was that it was a wing of the Swedish secret services - and the load had been waved through.

The problem with this kind of selective openness towards the Western press by the communist security services is that there is no real link between what is displayed and the conclusions drawn by the authorities. The equipment regarded as proof positive of espionage activity by Solidarity could for the most part be bought openly in Swedish or British shops, including personal computers by school-children.

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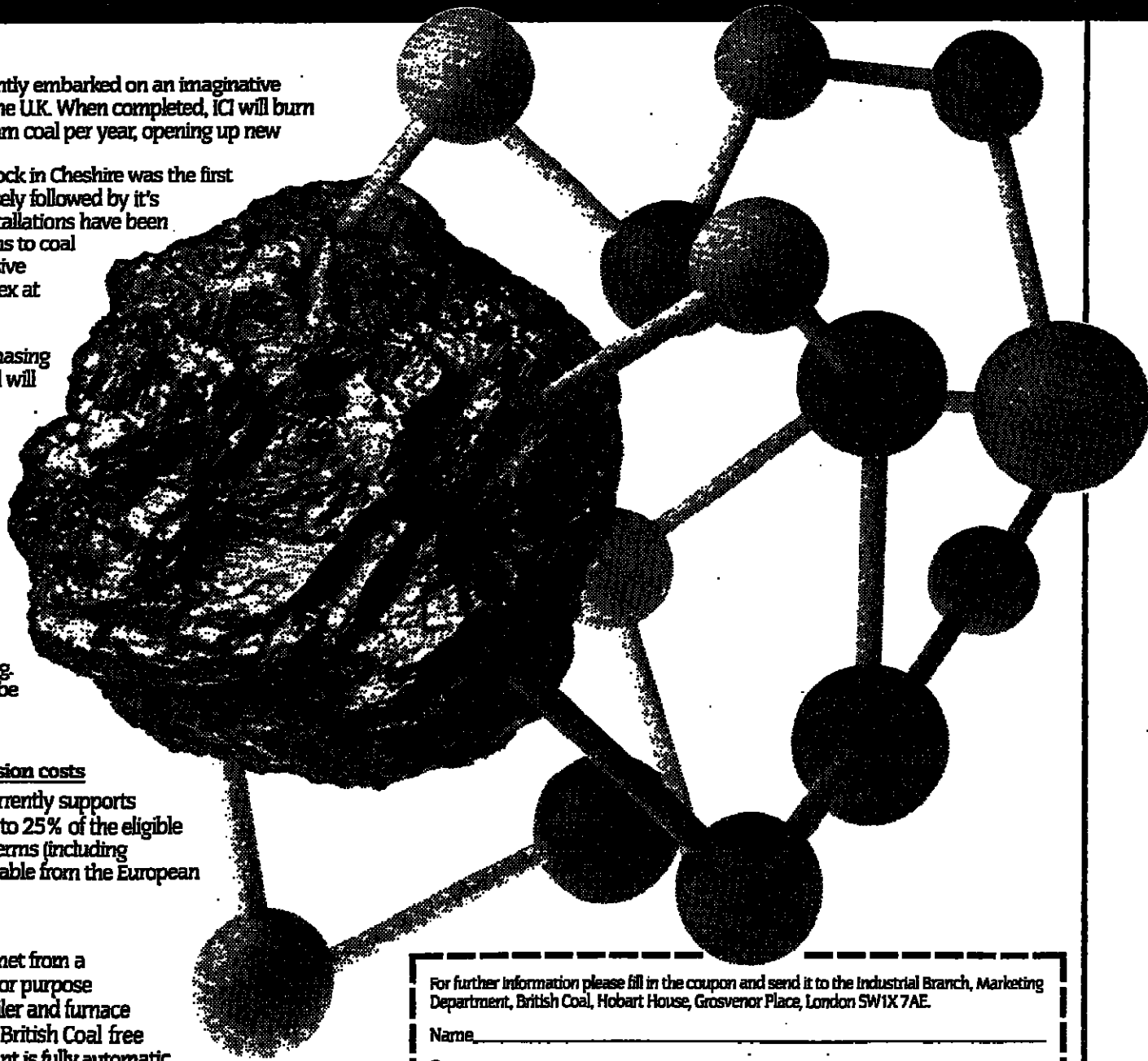
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Martin Cropper

Everyman becomes a star

David Robinson joins America in falling for the charm of an outback innocent at large in New York

CINEMA

Crocodile Dundee (15) Leicester Square Theatre

Harem (15) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue

Howard... A New Breed of Hero (pg) Empire Leicester Square

Link (15) Cannons, Haymarket, Oxford Street

Crocodile Dundee opened in the United States 10 weeks ago, took \$8 million in its first three days on release, and then climbed to top place in the box-office charts...

The star is Paul Hogan, a man with a lean, quizzical, beat-up face, who started out as a rigger on the Sydney Bridge and went on, barely a decade ago, to become Australia's most popular comedian. He made his mark with American audiences in television commercials for the Australian Tourist Commission...



The swagman and the sophisticate: Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski in Crocodile Dundee

Head-on cultural collision is also the theme of Harem, an elegant, beguiling but inconsequential feature conceived and directed by a first-time French director, Arthur Joffe. It gets swiftly to business as Nastassia Kinski, convincing as a restless young New York professional woman, is drugged and kidnapped on her way to a wedding...

into the night: a moment later there is a crash and fearful cursing from the bush. There are other resemblances to old-style movie comedy. The structure is quite shaggy, rambling from incident to incident and clumsily shifting tack midway with the move from Australia to New York, but always held together by the suspense of whether and when Crocodile will get the girl...

graphed by Pasquale De Santis, and with some tasteless erotica in the harem pool. The film always provides visual compensation. Howard... A New Breed of Hero is also about culture shock: the story of a duck from outer space (if you please) who saves the world by felling invasion by the Dark Overlords of the Universe...

There are a few passable jokes in the first half where Howard - accidentally misdirected from his own planet which is a duck-scale simulacrum of Earth - delivers his caustic commentary on human civilization. But Howard (evidently a small person wearing a plastic head and feathers) is not very appealing; the people around him are strictly two-dimensional; and the duck's coy sex scenes with the leading lady (Lea Thompson) are very unsexy.

Perhaps a spare of animal science fiction is pending. Link is a horror story in which the threatening peril is a homicidal chimpanzee whose intelligence has been developed by a crazed London University anthropologist (Terence Stamp) - the first of his creature's victims.

The director Richard Franklin (who made Psycho II) is evidently a Hitchcock devotee: he sets the action in a Psycho-style mansion, and the chimp are trained by Ray Berwick, who worked on The Birds. (The performance of Link himself may however be far rather to the "special character design consultant" Lyle Conway, who was responsible for the Wonderland creatures in Dreamchild.)

The difference is that Hitchcock always worked with well-formed scripts, which Everett De Roche's screenplay for Link is not. The establishing section is long and tiresome; the denouement, with a tediously indestructible monster, seems interminable, and there is not much, apart from the apes' performances, to admire in between.

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THE ARTS 2

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THEATRE

The Hobbit  
The Fortune

Since this production contains the three essentials for a children's show - clear story, spectacular scenes and likeable heroes - the shortcomings a tetchy old grown-up notices will not do much to diminish their enjoyment.

First the story. Well, it is Bilbo Baggins, the pint-sized Hobbit, shamed into joining 13 dwarves with jaw-crunching names in their fight to regain their ancestral territory. The journey is part treasure-hunt, part dragon-quest, undertaken by a reluctant Siegfried with hairy feet who discovers the thrilling terror of outwitting giant spiders and crushing the skulls of evil goblins.

He is helped by a benign wizard - and the lofty Dudley Long in his pointed hat alongside four-foot high Dixon make a quaintly attractive double act.

The children I consulted did not mind the boring bits, the wordy or incomprehensible explanations. They had no sense of being cheated after the heroes are led away to dungeons and nothing follows but the narrator's comment, "don't worry - they escaped."

Tedious scenes and narrative cop-outs may even, I suppose, function as opportunities for a young audience to recover from the excitement elsewhere.

The first of these is a fight with luminous goblins, kitted out like spiky Siamese dancers, that culminates in the flight of a sword across the darkened stage. The decision to overlay Gollum's voice upon itself spoiled that encounter but momentum picked up again with David Lumsden's excellent Beorn, rough and heavily moving like the bear he changes into.

High spot of the evening is the dragon Smaug, scaly and huge, on his nest of treasure. Impressively handled by a puppeteer below his neck, and speaking with the sarcastic George Sanders politeness expected of such beasts, it then comes forward (four other puppeteers controlling its glittering wings) to stretch its neck across the orchestra pit and screech in rage before expiring like a collapsed petard.

Jeremy Kingston

Complicating a classic

DANCE

The Nutcracker  
Royal, Plymouth

The Nutcracker could be one of the easiest of the classic ballets to produce, but almost everyone who tackles it nowadays decides to complicate matters. Peter Schaufuss, in his version, sponsored by Digital and premiered by the London Festival Ballet is no exception.

He has obviously been reading Professor Wiley's writings about Tchaikovsky's ballet music, so the first change he makes is to identify all the characters with members of Tchaikovsky's family, the composer himself becoming Drosselmeyer, the others being drawn mainly from his sister's household.

As an exercise in ingenuity, requiring pages of explanation in the cast list and programme notes, it is rather impressive. In practice, it makes surprisingly little difference to the plot, and there are so many minor personages huddled around the stage that you hardly notice, and certainly do not recognize, them.

The other big change is more obtrusive. Schaufuss must needs drag in the episodes from Hoffmann's story which were left out of the ballet's original libretto. So we get the barely relevant tale of Princess Piripat, the mice and the hard nut, not once but twice; first as a dumb show performed by children with captions (because otherwise we should have no idea what it meant), and then in *tableaux vivants* during an added scene showing little Tanya's delirious illness.

This would not be possible without taking considerable liberties with the music. An extract from the beginning of Act II gets tacked on to Act I, immediately after the overture, to introduce Tchaikovsky and his valet, who becomes the romantic lead.

Two piano pieces from the Children's Album are interpolated in the party to show Drosselmeyer's sensitive relationship with niece Tanya (which was never in doubt anyway). For the illness, we get music from the early opera *Voynoda*, and a funeral march



Youth at the prow: Trinidad Seviliano and Matz Skoog, the young lovers in *The Nutcracker*

from *Hamlet*. To this last, mice defeated in battle stage a procession so like Napoleon's retreat from Moscow that the 1812 Overture might almost be more apt.

All these changes interrupt the coherent and universally popular score which is the ballet's main attraction: what kind of compliment to Tchaikovsky is that?

David Walker's designs for the Christmas Party are acceptably grand, but the transformation to the Land of Snow is a sad let down, like a rejected first draft for *Les*

*Patineurs*, and the second act presumably takes place in the Land of Kitsch.

Schaufuss, in his first attempt at original choreography, shows some ability, as you would expect, at arranging solos for men. His best invention is the Russian dance, done as a male trio, tremendously energetic, although this will be better if he drops the childish joke of making them pretend to drink from vodka bottles while dancing. (Similarly, I hope he has second thoughts about showing Drosselmeyer smoking all the

time: hardly the thing for a family show.)

But the rest of the choreography suggests that Schaufuss would do better to stick, in future, to the multiple talents he has already demonstrated, instead of claiming one that, very apparently, is not his.

One of his gifts is that of developing a really strong company. At this first performance, even the small parts were largely cast from principals and soloists, and there were no weak links anywhere.

Detailed comment on the performances, with multiple casting, can await the Festival Hall season, but I must mention Trinidad Seviliano and Matz Skoog, ideal young lovers, and welcome Christopher Bruce's return to the stage, even in so nebulous a role as Tchaikovsky/Drosselmeyer.

John Percival

English Concert/  
Pinnock  
Barbican

This event was, if nothing else, a triumph of inverse marketing. Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the Bach cantata containing *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, all performed by some of Britain's most distinguished baroque musicians: how did they manage to keep the audience away? News of the concert obviously crept out to some punters, though. Was there a leak? Was MIS involved?

The fact is that some works are so "popular" that the discerning musical public (and one presumes that the English Concert aims to attract the discerning public) actually shuns them. Vivaldi's *Gloria*, which must be performed on average about once

Prissy,  
precise

CONCERTS

every hour in December by school and amateur choirs, is such a work.

Moreover, I would rather have heard it sung with amateur gusto and pride than in the way it was delivered here - precise, prissy and deadpan. Trevor Pinnock's direction ensured a neat scheme of dynamics was immaculately executed. Only the music's heart and soul were missing.

The English Concert and its choir seemed considerably more roused by Bach - the "Visitation" cantata, *Herz und Mund und Tal und Leben* - and rightly so.

It contained some of Bach's most felicitous instrumental writing, notably for oboes (of both the *d'amore* and *da caccia* ilk), violin, cello and - blazing festively over the bigger ensembles - trumpet.

Not all of these solos were as faultlessly delivered as the players would have wished. But at least the general feeling was of spirit and boldness.

There was much pleasant solo singing, too. Carolyn Watkinson, who had seemed to be straying under pitch in the Vivaldi, recovered her usual poise in the alto aria *Schme dich*.

Lorna Anderson shaped the phrases of *Beravite dir, Jesu* very naturally, though her timbre seemed to thin out rather obviously at the top. Alesdair Elliott and Stephen Varcoe seized their brief opportunities with style and vigour.

Richard Morrison

Another shimmering first

LPO/Downes  
Festival Hall

The Royal Philharmonic Society, which revels in its reputation for world premieres, noticed another first on Wednesday night. Delius wrote his single-movement orchestral *American Rhapsody* while he was in Paris, as part of the gestation process of his later *Appalachia*, with its choral apotheosis.

A lost eight-bars worth of manuscript made the earlier work unavailable for performance until Philip Jones, of York University, did some reconstruction work, and presented the London Philharmonic and Edward Downes with the pleasing Franco-Atlantic medley we heard.

Twelve minutes is just about long enough for this carousel of tunes from the Big Country, exquisitely orche-

strated, varied, and bound together in a river-mist of added sixths, shimmering *remolandi* and melismatic wind writing. Berlioz-style brass (cornets, trumpets, tenor trombones) and Dixieland rhythms combine to flex the work's muscle: Downes drew outstanding playing from all sections of the orchestra.

Talking of jazz, it was Nigel Kennedy, I suspect, who, through Elgar, provided the audience for Delius and, later, Vaughan Williams.

The award-winning *Violin Concerto* was put on show again; the "Cathedral" Stradivarius glowed its way through the work's emotional maelstroms; and the impassioned sense of fresh encounter, which Kennedy never ceases to bring to the work, was matched by orchestral playing which breathed deep from the diaphragm.

It was Downes and Vaughan Williams, though,

who provided the evening's substance. It was one of those occasions in which eye and ear gave the same message. The tension in Downes's shoulders, hunched over the miniature score, emblemized the smouldering concentration of his reading of the *Ninth Symphony*.

Dedicated to the Royal Philharmonic Society, this last symphony was composed just three years after Shostakovich's tenth: this performance urged us to an awareness of the composer's strange and subtle kinship.

Downes emphasized the austerity of outline in the outer movements. He drew energy from the striding octaves and augmentations and diminutions of the first, and the tensely lyrical *cantilena* of the last, and made of the *Andante* and *Scherzo* a march and *danse macabre* of fierce primitivism.

Hilary Finch

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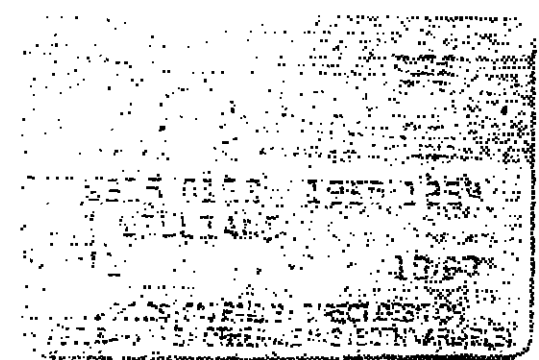
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# Fishing town that hooked a fortune

Tom Igoe

The deckhands of Peterhead have money to spare for fast cars and foreign holidays. Howard Foster investigates

**A** bleak November Sunday afternoon in the Scottish fishing town of Peterhead. Inside the granite fishermen's houses the older people relax after lunch. In a layby on the edge of town their sons are preparing to take part in a weekly ritual that will soon shatter the silence of the Sabbath.

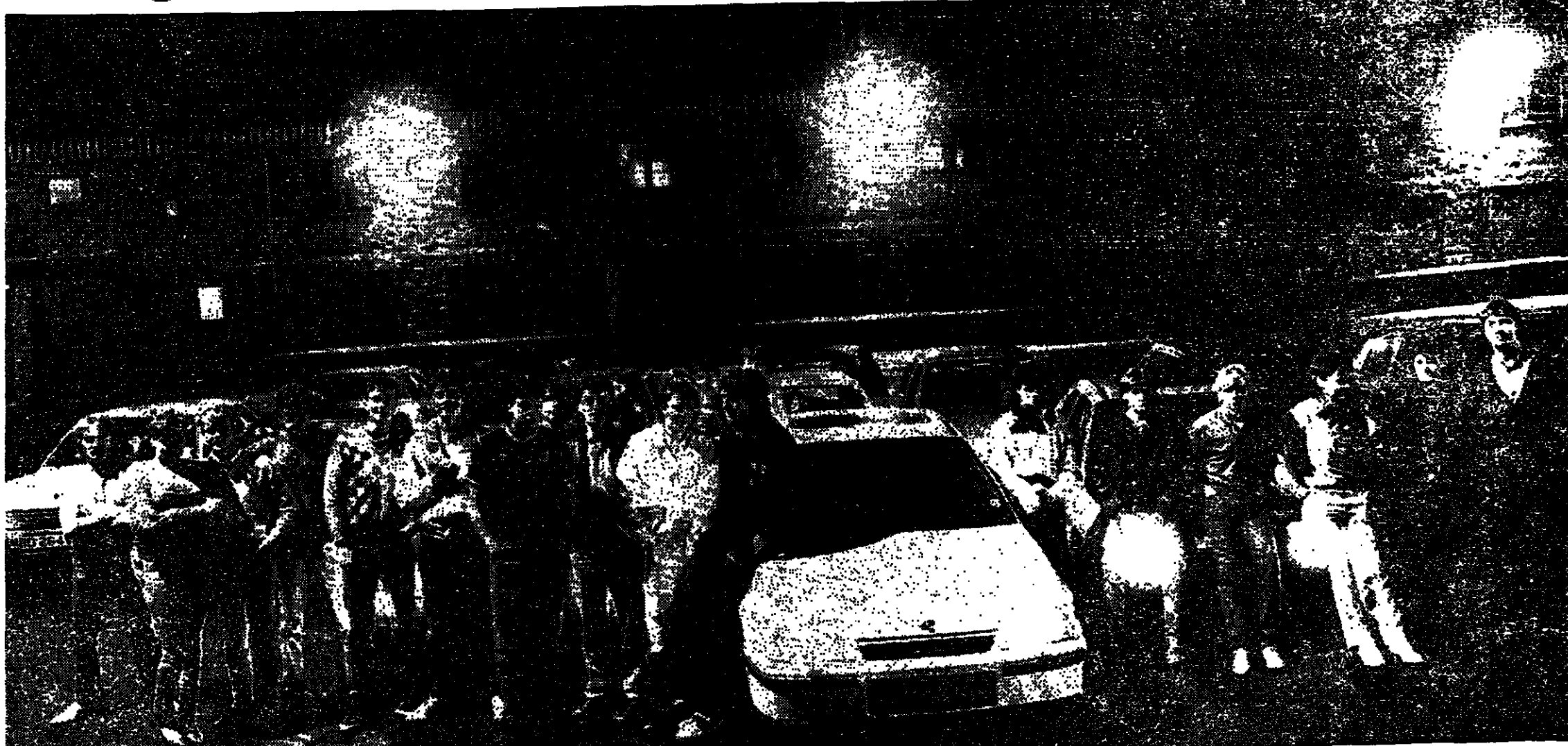
There, obscuring a series of No Parking signs are 40 new or almost new sports saloons, about £500,000 worth of young man's dream with expensive stereo systems pumping out pop to the surrounding countryside. At a given signal, the first car pulls out onto the road and the others follow nose to tail as the Peterhead young bloods begin "The Circuit" that takes them round the streets of their home town and up to the next port, Fraserburgh, to while away the Sunday "morning" in true mid-American fashion.

These men, in their late teens, are a working-class phenomenon. They are mainly deckhands working the fishing fleet out of Peterhead and they enjoy a spending power unrivalled by their peers just about anywhere in Britain. Conservative estimates put their earnings at £500 a week when the fishing is poor. Usually they pocket more than £1,000 once the money earned from the week's catch is divided between the crew every Friday on Peterhead's fishing quay.

In the past three and a half weeks I have made £8,000," said one 18-year-old deckhand, his hair still bleached from a Mediterranean holiday with his friends. He drives a new Audi sports car and those who know the state of fishing in Peterhead do not doubt that he is telling the truth.

**W**hile Aberdeen, 32 miles down the exposed and windy Eastern Scottish coast from Peterhead, feels the chill of the oil recession, these young men are helping to fend off the effects of rising unemployment for their town. It is rare for Scotland, where little is heard nowadays other than tales of new redundancies and economic decline.

Alistair Buchan, 22, is a car salesman at the local Ford dealer in Peterhead. He went to school with a lot of the fishermen who are now his customers. "They will come in, choose a sports car that sells for about £9,000 or



Fastest fishermen in the west: surrounded by sports cars, the young bloods of Peterhead prepare for "The Circuit" round their home town and to the next port. They have been known to pay cash for a £10,000 model

£10,000 and pay for it in full either with cash or a cheque. Some take a particular model because they like the colour," says Alistair, whose garage, although only in business three years, is already building a new site three times its present size close by.

"Sometimes they smash their new cars up and rather than wait for the repair some have been known to buy another straight away. They have little else to spend their money on and when they are away for days on end, and at home so little, their cash soon mounts up."

Not that Peterhead flinches when the fleet hits town on Friday night. Drinking and driving is comparatively rare and some of the youngsters who join "The Circuit" fit it in between as many as three visits to church on Sunday. Half-a-dozen strict religious brethren groups still maintain a hold on their young. Men and women still tend to marry young among the fishing community and after playing the field the fishermen usually find himself a "quint" - fisherman - and settles down to have children.

Vauxhall and Opel are "flavour of the month" with the young fishermen. Mantas and Astra GTEs constantly glide through Peterhead. The older fishermen and the trawler skippers seem to prefer an Audi or a Mercedes. Occasionally a new Jaguar arrives on the streets although one

skipper is known to keep his model almost permanently cosseted inside his garage.

Ronnie Gordon, a local furniture trader, recounts tales of orders for hand-made silk sheets from Harrods, £3,000 sitting-room suites and costly furnishings replaced annually for the sake of it. "Purchases are made on the basis of how much something costs," Gordon says. "One woman rejected a £150 duvet because it was not expensive enough."

**T**he prosperity of the fishing community in Peterhead is based on its harbour. Until the 1970s, Aberdeen was synonymous with North Sea fishing. Then, as the Granite City geared itself up to meet the oil boom and with fishermen becoming increasingly disenchanted with its unwieldy and restrictive Docks Labour Scheme, the move to Peterhead began.

Peterhead offered a new harbour basin, a non-unionized quay where the trawler crews could quickly unload their catch for sale in the market, and proximity to the haddock, cod and herring fishing grounds. Fish buyers began to move to Peterhead to take the catches from the boats, and more boats started to unload where the buyers were.

It is now the biggest fishing port in Europe, and last week announced that it had landed £63 million-worth of fish in the past 12 months - more than rivals Aberdeen and Ullapool put together.

A few weeks ago the long queues of boats waiting to unload at the quayside filled more than 6,000 eight-stone boxes with fish for the first time ever. Confidence in the future of fishing is helping to ease unemployment in Peterhead, currently around 14 per cent.

Len Stainton, the local fish merchant, has never employed more workers in his fish processing plant. He has 70 on his books, earning around £157 for a 40-hour week filleting fish. Increasingly, he says, unemployed fish workers from Hull, Grimsby and Fleetwood are coming to Peterhead.

"Work is becoming available all the time. We now supply Spain, France, Germany and Belgium as well as Britain. There is little the Japanese could teach us about management involvement. If they need someone to help out fish, I get stuck in. There are no unions in the fishing trade," he says.

Nobody begrudges the high wages paid to the fishermen: "When you have waves breaking over the boat, it's bobbing like a cork, it's cold and you have to fish 24 hours at one go, you deserve the money you earn. It's a dangerous job and these are real men," says Walter Milne, master of the Faithful II.

Next March, work begins on an ambitious £18 million harbour expansion programme, Captain Alec Auld, the harbourmaster, says that there are 18 new boats on order for the Peterhead fleet, at a cost of about £1 million each. "We will be looking for government and EEC grants for our new harbour basin but it has to be said that the banks seem keen to lend us money. They, and I, feel confident about the future," says Captain Auld.

**B**ut the danger signs are there, say some connected with the fishing industry. Captain John D. Buchan, although now 76, still retains shares in fishing boats and is chairman of Britain's largest ice factory at Peterhead.

He, like Stainton and others, is worried about the scarcity of fish in the future. He blames illegal nets used by the Norwegians and the Danes for the shortage of haddock and cod: "Cod has doubled in price in the past year and the fishermen are making more money off fewer fish," says Captain Buchan.

"Unless we have some conservation soon, I'm very pessimistic about the future. The only good thing is that Peterhead will be the best equipped port in Europe to withstand recession. That is one thing to be thankful for."



Envy of the deckhands: at 20, George Forman has already written off two £22,000 Porsches

## 'Peterhead is now the only place to sell or buy fish'

Among the young men making a large amount of money from the fishing boom is George Forman. At 20 he already runs three separate businesses and from gam he is on the fishmarket buying fish for firms all over Britain and Europe. He combines this with a fish transporting business and has recently started a processing company. He employs 16 people and is about to take on another three.

George Forman enjoys a car-owning reputation in Peterhead that is the envy of the young deckhands. He has already written off two £22,000 Porsches and with an insurance premium veering alarmingly towards £2,000 a year he has had to settle for a top of the range BMW. This Christmas he will be taking a three-week break in Hawaii. "I can honestly say that nothing will spoil the scene

here," says Forman. "We have the best facilities in Europe and we are expanding all the time. Peterhead is now the only place to come if you want to buy or sell fish. Fish has finally been recognized as a healthy product and sales are improving.

"We have high prices at the moment but happily there is no sign yet that they will reach a level where people will refuse to pay."

THE TIMES

**SATURDAY**

*Portfolio Gold*

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**Merrily on high**

From Canterbury to York, from Alexandra Palace to Trafalgar Square, the singers will delightfully rhyme their festive songs this Christmas. Tomorrow *The Times* gives a guide to the best carol concerts - plus some shopping ideas, both for those who favour Christmas past and for those who like their presents hi-tech

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For the man who lays undisputed claim to the title of Britain's champion pub crawler, Alisdair Aird scarcely looks the part. In the last six years he has sipped in more than 2,000 hosterries up and down the land. Yet his lean, athletic frame shows no trace of the true enthusiast's usual beer belly. And at each port of call he arrives, and leaves, as sober as a judge. Scarcely surprising, because a judge of licensed houses is exactly what he is.

Next Monday, the Consumers Association's 1987 *Good Pub Guide* (£8.95) will go on sale. Its 1,200 main entries will have two things in common. Each pub will have been personally visited by the guide's indefatigable editor. And when next visited, each landlord will fail to recognize the man who, like all true undercover investigators, wears his anonymity like a chain of office.

For a quarter of every year

**He always arrives, and leaves, as sober as a judge**

Aird drives himself the length and breadth of Britain on his mission of discovery, and the pint pot in front of him when we met at The George, a historic pub in Southwark, south London, was a rare indulgence.

"Usually I go in, order a half pint of beer, take the top off it and have a surreptitious look around," he says. "When a pub is very busy, particularly in the summer, it's easy to dispose of the rest of the glass. At quiet times, and especially in the north, it's much harder and I have a magnificent list of excuses." Describing his tastes as "catholic", Aird likes a drop of almost anything providing it is well kept. "I am particularly fond of malt whisky," he says.

Aird first had the idea of producing a guide to good pubs while he was working for the Consumer Association's

**Alisdair Aird has a drink at 2,000 pubs a year - and all in a good cause**

**'I hate pubs that are just too local'**

*Holiday Which?* magazine, but only in 1979, when he had left to become a freelance researcher, did he begin to put his ambition into effect.

Touring the country at random, he took three years to compile enough material for his first guide, published four years ago. Even then selection was, he admits, sometimes rather arbitrary. "If a pub car park was crowded I used to pop inside, and if it wasn't I would drive straight past," he recalls.

Now, however, his judgment is assisted by a huge army of amateur sleuths who correspond with him regularly. "As I can't hope to get round to every pub in the guide every year, I can be fairly certain that one of my informants will tip me off if, say, there is a change of management or a pronounced drop in standard."

His pet hates? "I don't like fuzzy, intrusive piped music. I don't like lighting designed to reach only down to table-top level - I see no reason why a pub floor should not be at least as clean as the pavement outside. I don't like pubs which leave dirty glasses on the table and which have excessive noise behind the bar

**Informants tip him off if standards drop**

pub lover's happiest hunting ground? "Definitely Yorkshire," he says, without a hint of diplomatic hesitation.

So will Aird put down his critic's pen one day and practise the kind of mine host excellence he applauds in others? "Certainly not," he declares. "For one thing the working hours are ridiculous, and for another, there are an awful lot of perfectly horrible customers whom I couldn't stand for a minute."

**William Greaves**

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**A gypsy violinist**

A gypsy violinist, as the tourist brochures claim, is a delightful part of dining out in Hungary. But few diners, lulled by the sound of the cymbalom, realize that they are listening to a representative of Europe's poorest ethnic minority.

The dark-skinned virtuoso at the far end of the Budapest restaurant represents only a small privileged percentage of Hungary's 400,000 gypsies, most of whom live in appalling squalor.

In some narrow side streets off Budapest's Rakocsi Square, the shop windows are filled with hand-made string instruments. These are the tools of existence of the wealthier gypsies and on a calm Monday evening, almost every flat reverberates to the sound of five-year-olds tortuously practising their scales.

The musicians are traditionally the aristocrats of the gypsy community. A few closely related families produce generation after generation of cymbalom players, violinists and bass players. All of the bands who play in Budapest's luxury restaurants are in the hands of these families, who live in cramped houses with crumbling facades around Rakocsi Square.

The square is an eccentric red light district where discreet prostitution occurs after dark. Propping up the bars are dark Romany beauties, seldom seen by the businessmen from the West who are encouraged to court the seductive Magyar girls around the expensive hotels along the Danube.

Although the Rakocsi Square dwellings have not been restored or modernized for decades, they are considered luxurious by the gypsies from the country. In the towns and villages of eastern Hungary, gypsy families with five children habitually share one room. Sanitation is primitive,

**For the poorest ethnic minority in Europe, music is the only escape from daily misery**

lacking even the most elementary plumbing.

It is the shocking housing conditions of the poor majority which most concerns those Hungarians who believe that the state should treat the gypsies more fairly. Social workers estimate that 350,000 live in these conditions and Magyars have nicknamed the eastern region around Debrecen, where most gypsies live, "Hungary's Sicily".

The Hungarians regard gypsies with loathing and distrust. Although there are

much smaller ethnic minorities in Hungary which have official recognition from Budapest, gypsies enjoy no such status. In schools, gypsy children are often lumped together with mentally handicapped children. Predictably, few are able to better themselves.

Caught between the indifference of their better-off brothers and the distrust of the authorities, they are trapped in an existence which can only lead to bitter resentment. While so little of the country's wealth is channelled into improving their education and living conditions, the crime rate among gypsies will continue to rise and Hungary will have both the poorest and the wealthiest inhabitants in eastern Europe.

**Richard Bassett**

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**CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1130**

ACROSS

1 Sleeveless jacket (6)

4 Parbed (6)

7 Dry (4)

8 In the open (8)

9 Ardent (7)

11 Stray (5)

12 British banking world (7,6)

15 Cotton thread (5)

16 Unclear (7)

20 Courtous (8)

21 Unoccupied (4)

22 Convincing (6)

23 Assuredly (6)

DOWN

1 Wussy (7)

2 Tree health (5)

3 Depletion (5)

4 Petty quarrel (4)

5 Interval (7)

6 Due (5)

10 Escape (5)

11 Loves excessively (5)

13 Wild horse (7)

14 Because of that (7)

15 Reasoning system (5)

17 Foundation (5)

18 Unwarranted (5)

19 Jostle (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1129**

ACROSS: 1 Rotund 4 Feeble 9 Verruca 10 Balsa 11 Rhen 12 Delect 14 Juggernaut 18 Surpass 19 Kilt 22 Liver 24 Oversee

DOWN: 1 Rave 2 Torch 3 Neighbour 5 Ebb 6 Ballast 7 Enact 8 Pandora's Box 11 Raj 13 Tankless 15 Unravel 16 Sin 17 Asylum 20 Loser 21 Rely 23 Rod.



FRIDAY PAGE

A generation born to die?

The heartbreak of Aids is bad enough for adults, but a new generation is coming into the world under its shadow, says Thomson Prentice

The odds have always been stacked against Jamie McConville. His entrance into the world last February was overshadowed by danger to himself, to his mother, and to the medical staff who delivered him.



Lorraine McConville and Jamie, happiness under a cloud: "I was heartbroken even before he was born"

Jamie is a child of the Aids generation. He was infected in the womb by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that his mother was carrying, and there is a substantial risk that he may soon contract the disease.

Now, at 10 months, he is a healthy, happy infant, showing no symptoms. But knowledge of the disease, also still in his infancy. For the rest of his life, Jamie will have to be regularly monitored by specialists.

So too will at least 30 other British babies and their mothers who are similarly infected. Two infants have already developed the disease. Almost all the cases so far have involved mothers who were heroin addicts and who, like Jamie's mother, became carriers as a result of sharing contaminated needles with other drug abusers.

shows what we are up against. It underlines the need for women, as well as men, to take every precaution. Dr Jacqueline Mok, a consultant paediatrician in Edinburgh, is closely involved in the care of 25 babies, including Jamie, who are carriers of the virus.

Dr Jacqueline Mok, a consultant paediatrician in Edinburgh, is closely involved in the care of 25 babies, including Jamie, who are carriers of the virus. "If we believe the evidence from international research, the outlook is grim", she says.

A scientific study of Aids-infected infants in Europe is being planned, with Dr Mok a leading participant in a group of experts. Britain will co-ordinate the study, which will involve babies from West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and France.

How one family is coping

When they heard that their son, Peter, was an Aids virus carrier, his parents felt annoyed. "We didn't think it was our turn for another problem. But now we just want to let people know the positive things we feel about it," says Norman, his father, a 36-year-old computer systems manager.

wanted them to take precautions in case Peter injured himself in the playground. The result was that many of the parents, fearful for their children, boycotted the school - and a quarter of the pupils were kept away.

Norman's complaint is that, despite an impression to the contrary, there is no counselling and back-up system available to families of carriers. "It just doesn't exist. We haven't been offered anything unless we have gone out of our way to ask for it."

happened to a less confident family. Both parents have been tested for Aids and been found antibody negative. It is reassuring to think that you can live in such close contact with someone without being contaminated. As far as Peter is concerned, he is bored with all the fuss.

As a small child in London and Bath, Elspeth Howe spent her pocket money on Woolworth's "amazingly cheap" Mars bars and recalls the now-legendary store as a shining light in the high street. Cave of youngsters' Aladdin's Cave. Almost half a century on, she still shops at Woolworth: only now the once-magical emporium has entered the world of high technology, complete with wire baskets, central tills and assistants who are not always entirely aware of what they stock or where it is - though that final observation is not Lady Howe's but my own, following a fruitless search around the Wimbledon branch for sticky coloured marking dots.

Howe to alter an image Woolworth is going back to what it does best, aided by a Lady with fond memories from childhood. Lady Howe: at home in Woolworth. 50,000 employees are women, as well as the vast majority of its customers, it could use the benefit of her feminine wisdom. "There is a feeling that that side of the human race should be represented at decision-making level", says Lady Howe of her appointment. For Lady Howe herself, 54-year-old wife of Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey, it is but one more challenge in a lifetime of energetic public work ranging from the juvenile courts to the council of NACRO to setting up the Equal Opportunities Commission.

shopper and consumer representative. She has already reappointed a Comet showroom and a B & Q do-it-yourself superstore, both now owned by Woolworth. She was impressed by the way the goods were displayed and the helpful staff. "I like the modern methods of shopping", she says. "In the past, perhaps assistants were a bit over-enthusiastic in their efforts to persuade you to buy. You can go on living in the past if it's profitable but you owe it to your employees and shareholders to make sure that you are in the business of providing what people want to buy." Even so, she admits that she misses the era of the delivery van.

What is normally just a reasonably friendly body of people, who can be relied upon to contribute to good causes, has turned into a frenzied army of jam makers, dried flower arrangers, bird-feeder whittlers, tombola spinners, record stall runners, Christmas card designers, baby clothes manufacturers and pickled onion bottlers. Hitherto hidden talents are revealing themselves at an alarming rate - the office mouse has metamorphosed into a pastry cook of patisserie standards, the lads are rightly proud of their Christmas gift tags and the knitted badges, crafted and donated by another member of the team should sell like hot cakes - talking of which, the cake stall will be glowing under the strain of producing chocolate chip cookies, almond butter crunch, Mrs Richmond's apple pies and Forest Gate gateaux (sic).

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Whistle and puff

A cardboard whistle being evaluated in the Paediatric Department at the University of Sheffield may prove as important an advance in medicine as pieces of hi-tech machinery costing hundreds of thousands of times as much. One of the factors which has been found responsible for death from asthma is the difficulty of measuring the loss of lung function during an attack; experience shows that patients and their general practitioners find it difficult to estimate just how severe the wheezing is. Despite the production of portable peak flow meters, a simple device for measuring lung function, a clinical assessment is usually the only test to which the patient is submitted. Delay in seeking specialist advice, following failure to recognise the seriousness of an attack of asthma, is a frequent cause of catastrophe. Parents who have struggled with a peak flow meter and found it difficult to persuade their child to blow into it report that blowing down a whistle can be quite fun instead, and that a patient soon learns to master it. The particular whistle, manufactured by Alternate Resources Ltd, is a cylinder which has a number of holes along it with a mouth piece at one end and a whistle at the other. The amount of puff needed to blow the whistle is proportional to the number of holes open; the more holes open, the harder the child will have to blow to make a noise. The device has been graduated by comparing its readings with those obtained when using a Wright peak flow meter. It has the additional advantage that the whistle will sound if the child sucks rather than blows. A report in the British Medical Journal about the work in Sheffield suggests that the whistle is cheap and effective and that its low cost, less than a seventh of that of a conventional peak flow meter, should greatly extend the number of parents who monitor their children's asthma attacks.

Pressure on meat eaters

Vegetarians have always insisted that if the rest of the community would follow their diet they would be healthier in general and their blood pressure in particular would be reduced. Casual observation of the red-faced, jolly butcher would seem to confirm their view, but until recently there has been no large-scale, carefully monitored trial. Now the British Medical Journal reports the results of a randomized cross-over trial carried out in Western Australia where 58 people between the ages of 30 and 64, who were mildly hypertensive, were switched to an egg and vegetarian diet. Their systolic blood pressure fell by an average of 5mm. Although this improvement seems very marginal, statisticians estimate that such a fall would reduce the coronary heart rate by seven per cent. The general public, however, would be unlikely to feel that the loss of meat from their diet made this worthwhile; indeed, most of the Australians who gave up their steaks during the clinical trial could not wait to return to an omnivorous diet.

Risky vision

Visitors to the annual Hog Fair at Bungay in Suffolk, this year were able to take time off from bowling for the pig to visit the St John's Ambulance Brigade tent, where arrangements had been made to test for people with diabetes. Of the 237 people who took the opportunity, 10 were found to need further tests. Their afternoon may have been spoiled, but the early diagnosis which resulted may later save their sight. Eight per cent of diabetics who have had the disease for 20 years have eye complications, and two out of every 100 diabetics go blind. Yet blindness could be greatly reduced if patients attended ophthalmologists (eye specialists) regularly; the British Diabetic Association estimates that seven out of ten of the diabetics who lose their sight could have had it saved if treatment had been carried out in time. They recommend that diabetics' eyes should be checked by an ophthalmologist annually. A recent report in the British Journal of Ophthalmology supports their view: in one survey half the insulin-dependent diabetics investigated had not regularly visited an ophthalmologist; when they did, 28 per cent already had disease of the retina of the eye, and 20 per cent needed urgent treatment.

Bowled out

Cricket fans watching Ian Botham's "non-bowl" last week later relieved that he had merely torn his intercostal muscles. A pain very similar to this is often due to nerve root irritation, the result of a prolapsed intervertebral disc. It is a common injury of bowlers and seemed likely when Botham told an interviewer that climbing up and down stairs was proving difficult, a symptom all too familiar to those who have suffered with their back. Even if this had been Ian Botham's trouble, the prognosis would not be very different: 80-90 per cent of patients with acute backache are free of symptoms within two weeks. Dr Thomas Stuttford

TALKBACK

From Christine Jaccx de Boinod, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11. I read Vivien Tomlinson's "All The Fury Of The Fayre" (Wednesday Page, November 26th) with keen interest, but her view of the Christmas Fayre is quite, quite different from my own. I work for a large company and at the moment we're trying to raise money to buy a guide dog for the blind. One of the fund-raising events is a bring-and-buy sale, and everyone who has been involved with it has been staggered by the response from contributors. What is normally just a reasonably friendly body of people, who can be relied upon to contribute to good causes, has turned into a frenzied army of jam makers, dried flower arrangers, bird-feeder whittlers, tombola spinners, record stall runners, Christmas card designers, baby clothes manufacturers and pickled onion bottlers. Hitherto hidden talents are revealing themselves at an alarming rate - the office mouse has metamorphosed into a pastry cook of patisserie standards, the lads are rightly proud of their Christmas gift tags and the knitted badges, crafted and donated by another member of the team should sell like hot cakes - talking of which, the cake stall will be glowing under the strain of producing chocolate chip cookies, almond butter crunch, Mrs Richmond's apple pies and Forest Gate gateaux (sic). What is it that makes people suddenly throw themselves wholeheartedly into such events? I think it may be a combination of things - the 'good cause' itself, a return to a Blue Peter mentality, Valerie Singleton's washing up liquid bottles, a chance to show off in areas other than career. It's a feeling of team spirit.

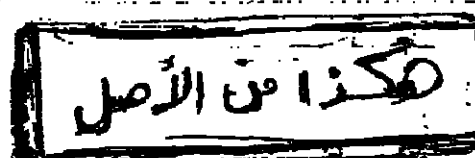
TO TEAR OUT OUR SHOP-FRONT, WE'RE BEING FORCED TO TEAR UP OUR SALE PRICES. Closing down price. On Monday Dec. 15th our Piccadilly Fur Superstore is closing down to allow work to start on replacing our shop-front. And that gives us just 3 days to clear the whole store and make room for the builders. Which, in turn, gives you an unparalleled choice of superb furs at equally unparalleled prices... just in time for Christmas. ...AND THOUSANDS MORE BEAUTIFUL BARGAINS. CLOSING DOWN SALE NOW ON FRI AND SAT 9.30AM-5.30PM OPEN THIS SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH 11.30AM-6.30PM. UPTO 90% OFF EVERYTHING TAX-FREE FOR OVERSEAS VISITORS. Konrad Furs, 42 Soane St, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Tel: 01-235 2929, and Konrad Furs, 61 Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-491 1901.











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## JUDGING RIGHTS

The motives of those who wish to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into the law in Britain tend to fall into two categories. The first, with Lord Scarman at the helm, believe that the United Kingdom should have its own Bill of Rights and, since they assume the political impossibility of agreeing upon a custom-made Bill, that the next best option is to adopt the Convention to which Britain has adhered since 1952.

The second springs more from pique than constitutional objective. Why should a Commission and a Court, with their base in a foreign country and made up almost entirely of foreign officials and judges, continue to have the right to meddle in our affairs? Better that we should bring the Convention home, when at least cases alleging its breach would be heard by our own national judges.

The ammunition for that approach is provided by the statistics. Numerically, the United Kingdom government, whatever its political hue, leads the other twenty members of the Council of Europe both in the number of complaints laid against it in Strasbourg and in the number of occasions on which the European Court of Human Rights has judged it guilty of a breach of the Convention.

The United Kingdom's frequent appearances do not, however, denote particular disregard of its international obligations in the area of human rights. The principal reason is that in almost every other European country the Convention, or some constitutional document akin to it, is part of that national law. Aggrieved citizens do not rush so quickly to Strasbourg because they are able to air their complaints before their own courts. In Britain, even with the welcome increase in the citizen's ability to challenge administrative decisions by the judicial review procedure, Strasbourg is often the only rather than the last resort.

Opponents of incorporation, too, divide into two broad camps. There are those — including the Government — who have reservations about the imprecise nature of the convention and claim constitutional obstacles to its becoming part of our law; and there are the objectors, mainly on the political left, who fear placing the interpretation of the Convention into the conservative hands of English and Scottish judges.

For the Convention is not like legislation passed by Westminster. It is in effect a Bill of Rights setting out in ringing, sweeping and often nebulous tones the rights to which the citizen is entitled. Therein lies its difficulty for British consumption. We are not accustomed to written constitutions or Bills of Rights. They fit uneasily into our system of law and government.

## TIGHTENING THE COPPER BELT

The riots which have erupted in Zambia's copper belt over the past week are but one manifestation of the economic ills besetting southern Africa. The immediate cause of the present unrest is reported to be the sharp increase in the price of maize meal, the staple food. The increase — of more than 100 per cent — applies only to the superior type of maize, leaving people with the theoretical option of buying low quality meal to make ends meet.

The latest price rises were dictated, in effect, not by the Zambian government, but by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for extending further loans. For Zambia, despite its years of relative political stability, is a paradigm of Third World indebtedness. It is a country which has a net outflow of foreign currency because of over-optimistic borrowing against a future prosperity that has been too long in coming.

The latest austerity measures precipitated rioting, looting and violence on a scale not to have been seen since Zambia became independent more than 20 years ago. The authorities have dispatched troops and declared a curfew. Such is their concern to restore law and order in an area which still provides the bulk of Zambia's depleted foreign currency earnings.

The threat of anarchy in so economically vital a region

The Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill nonetheless attempts to introduce the concept of British law. It states simply that the "Fundamental Rights and Freedoms [of the Convention] shall have the force of law", and the Convention itself appears in a schedule to the Bill. Originally introduced in the Upper House by Lords Scarman and Broxbourne, it was passed by their Lordships but subsequently lapsed. Now, Sir Edward Gardner, QC, the Chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, is bringing it before the Commons.

No attempt is made to give the Bill a special status in law by laying down unique and stringent parliamentary or judicial procedures for amendment, as most countries with constitutions provide. At first blush, therefore, the Bill is just another piece of Westminster legislation which, if passed into law, would be subject to amendment or repeal by ordinary parliamentary procedure. To that extent parliamentary sovereignty is not affected.

Yet the Bill does contain the trappings of a constitution. All other laws, past and future, will have to conform to the list of rights and freedoms laid down in the Convention, or run the risk of being struck down for being in effect (though the term is not used in the Bill) unconstitutional.

And what of the terms of the Convention itself in the Bill's schedule? If Parliament becomes free to change them, it might lead to the absurd result that the Westminster version of the Convention would be different from the treaty to which Britain adheres. But if Parliament cannot change the terms, is this not giving the Convention a special, higher status than ordinary law?

The position of Strasbourg's European Court of Human Rights raises a further difficulty. At present, its findings are not legally binding, though they are followed because of our treaty obligations. The court does not form part of our national legal structure in the way that Luxembourg's European Community's court does. Incorporating the Convention would, however, give Strasbourg a more formal status as the court of last resort, in effect a court of appeal from the national courts. We would have given foreign judges more power — though, as a result of providing national remedies, there would presumably be many fewer cases going to Strasbourg to enable them to exercise it.

A further constitutional question arises over the role of judges in Britain. They are trained to interpret detailed statutes passed by Westminster and to make up their minds between alternative detailed arguments put to them by barristers. It is an approach not necessarily suited to the kind of enquiry to which highlights the dilemma for President Kaunda and for Zambia's friends abroad, including Britain. At what point do the economic reforms and austerity measures required by international lending organizations so destabilize the domestic political situation that their main purpose — returning the country to solvency — is defeated?

Where a country has a record of political instability, or endemic corruption, the likelihood is, first, that not so much should have been lent in the first place and, second, that neither the recipient nor the lender would have much to lose from scaling down, or even severing the relationship. Zambia, however, does not quite fit into this gloomy pattern. Its troubles are due partly to bad luck. The continued fall in copper prices is a trend that was not predicted, and the agricultural reforms away from collectivization came too late to remedy Zambia's dependence on imports.

There is, however, the possibility that the latest disturbances are only one manifestation of a deeper discontent within the Bemba tribe (dominant in the copper belt) over President Kaunda's presidency. There have been reports for some time of concern among the country's intelligence services about developing unrest. As long as the army remains loyal, it is hard to see how any serious

Continental judges are accused, namely, the determination of whether or not particular laws, rules or conduct fall within the very broad wording of an article in a Bill of Rights or a constitution. It may also bring judges dangerously close to having to make decisions about what are essentially policy matters more properly in the hands of the executive.

It is true, of course, that the top echelons of the judiciary are not entirely novices at making decisions on constitutional issues. The law lords, when they sit on the Privy Council in their judicial capacity, are constantly interpreting the constitutions of Commonwealth countries with no apparent difficulty; and the expansion in the last few years of administrative law has obliged judges to come to terms with making decisions which have political policy consequences.

Yet a Bill of Rights would greatly expand this. The need to interpret the vague abstract rights embodied in it would compel judges to venture more frequently into politically dangerous territory without giving them the concrete guidance of traditional jurisprudence. Already, complaints are occasionally heard from the left about the supposed political partiality of the judiciary. These can at present be easily dismissed. The fact that over the last few years the law has not suited the trade unions and the left has to do with parliament and the electorate, not with the judiciary.

But such complaints would have greater apparent reasonableness, on both left and right, if a Bill of Rights were to enable and even compel judges to deliver judgements which could not easily be distinguished from legislative or executive decisions on a wide range of matters. The Scottish judge, Lord McCluskey, argued in this week's Reith Lecture that the politics of the judiciary would then become of supreme interest. That is perhaps an exaggeration. There is at least a risk, however, that judges would be selected on the basis of their political views and judicial decisions would increasingly be matters of intense controversy.

The main question, then, is simple. Do we need the European Convention on Human Rights in our law? Will the upheaval which incorporating it will undoubtedly bring be outweighed by the benefit to the citizens of having a quasi Bill of Rights which may turn out to be a constitutional nightmare? There is, in fact, no evidence of risk to the liberties of the subject sufficient to justify subordinating the British system of judicial interpretation of concrete law to an over-riding power of the judges to interpret a series of ringing abstract declarations at their own discretion.

threat to Mr Kaunda could materialize. But the international financial community shares the president's interest in maintaining stability in the country and must therefore be alive to the dangers which might lie beneath the surface. They also have a common interest in persevering with their relationship. The IMF and others hope to recoup some of their investment. And Zambia needs loans that will make a more positive contribution to growth than past investments have done. Violent change in Zambia would foster neither aim.

Some Western governments, notably the United States, have already begun to argue that austerity measures alone are incapable of remedying Africa's persistent insolvency. A year ago at the World Bank meeting in Seoul they put forward a more flexible approach to lending which concentrated on funding economic growth and broke away from the austerity-led recipes offered before.

This may show a way forward. In view of past experience, however, there must be a strict *quid pro quo* for any future loans. If it is not to be austerity, then it must be greater liberalisation of the recipient economy and its adjustment to market forces. For the present, the unrest in Zambia this week illustrates the risks, to all involved, of failing to change.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Labour's defence policy under fire

From Sir Patrick Donner  
Sir, In a television interview Mr Neil Kinnock claimed in the United States that the Labour Party had always been prepared to defend this country. This is a falsehood of monumental proportions.

From 1929 until the outbreak of war the Labour Party, riddled with pacifism, systematically opposed the National Government's measures to rearm. They denounced as warmongers all who, in the looming Nazi menace, called for more defence. In the year that Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia the Labour Party conference voted not to reduce but to abolish the RAF altogether.

Only four months before the outbreak of war the Parliamentary Labour Party voted against conscription. And in September, 1939, their personal hatred of Neville Chamberlain was such that they forgot their duty to their country and refused to share the burden of Government until the spring of 1940.

When Germany was defeated, Winston Churchill appealed in the national interest to Atlee to remain in the Coalition at least until Japan had been defeated, so that a united country could face the world's problems. Atlee refused. In war the Labour Party arrived late and left early.

This is Labour's infamous defence record, for which, to the best of my knowledge, no member of the Labour Party has ever expressed a word of contrition or regret for the damage they did.

And when in 1982 the Argentines committed unprovoked aggression and invaded the Falkland Islands, Labour MPs criticized not them but the Prime Minister who felt compelled to observe in the Commons that "she wished the leader [Mr Foot] of the Labour Party was so concerned for our defence as he is to keep Soviet superiority".

Mr Kinnock, whose policy of "defenceless defence" has been repudiated by the United States and every Nato government, is now busy putting a gloss on it so as to make it appear less dangerous and reprehensible than it is. Given his inexperience and irresponsibility, will anyone believe him?  
Yours etc,  
PATRICK DONNER,  
Hurstbourne Park,  
Whitchurch,  
Hampshire,  
December 9.

From Major-General J. D. Lunt  
Sir, Does Mr Kinnock intend to increase our land forces contribution to Nato by forming more

### Security service over-mighty?

From Mr Aubrey Jones

Sir, Professor Hough (December 6) is right: the requirement of lifelong confidentiality now placed on an official of the security services should be conditional, not absolute. If, for example, such an official were to keep himself informed about an act of espionage against the government of the day, no matter whether that act had been undertaken officially or unofficially, he would in effect be elevating his service above the government.

The real issue arising from the Wright case is, which is the paramount authority, security services or government? It can now be seen, thanks to Mr Wright, that the present system, with its emphasis on absolute secrecy on the part of everyone, can conduce to the omnipotence of the security service.

Even a prime minister may feel the need to appeal against it, as did, according to report, Lord Wilson. It is difficult, however, to see to whom he or she may appeal unless it be to a small body of privy counsellors drawn from more than one political party. Yours faithfully,  
AUBREY JONES,  
89 North End House,  
Fitzjames Avenue, W14.

From Mr K. I. McCullum  
Sir, In the current life spy drama no one seems to have asked the obvious question. Why, if so many senior British intelligence officers were Russian moles, has this made so little difference? Britain has remained intact, the foundations of Nato are uncrumbled, the wheels of international diplomacy have continued to turn.

Are the dire consequences of all the double dealing too secret to be revealed? Or could it be that Professor J. C. Masterman, who was in a position to know, got it right when he suggested that in time of peace the elaborate game of espionage and counter-espionage is largely a waste of time?

Yours sincerely,  
IAN MCCULLUM,  
Combesbury Farm,  
Backland St Mary,  
Chard, Somerset.

From Mr Chapman Pincher  
Sir, I must protest concerning a statement about myself made by my old friend Miles Copeland in his article (December 1) about the Wright affair. Mr Copeland wrote Peter Wright is sure to have enough of a boss-ster to make whatever Chapman Pincher said him look like peanuts.

I have never paid Mr Wright anything. Mr Wright received royalties on a jointly-authored book properly paid by the publisher and nothing else.  
Yours sincerely,  
CHAPMAN PINCHER,  
Church House,  
16 Church Street,  
Kintbury,  
Newbury, Berkshire.

### Country of origin

From Mr Rupert Blum  
Sir, The letter by Sir Edward du Cann and others of the Conservative Parliamentary Group for European Reform seems to confuse the obligation to show the country of origin on consumer products with the right of producers to continue doing so. The proposed repeal of the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 will in no way affect that right.

My own county of Herefordshire produces some excellent products. When firms judge that buyers will be attracted by being made aware of its origin, there is nothing in the EEC Treaty to prevent them marking the product "Made in Herefordshire, England (or Great Britain or UK)".  
Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT BLUM,  
Prior House,  
Stoke Prior,  
Leominster,  
Herefordshire,  
December 5.

### Sports ground

From Mr C. G. Buck  
Sir, Let me add emphasis to John Goodbody's telling articles (December 2, 3) about the appalling rates burdens which amateur sports clubs are made to bear.

The rates bill for Lords cricket ground is quoted as £25,700. Ours, for a comparable area in the southern outskirts of Sheffield, is £45,000.  
Yours sincerely,  
C. G. BUCK (President,  
Sheffield Amateur Sports Club),  
The Grange,  
Bradway,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
December 5.

### A case of misconduct

From Mr F. E. Weale  
Sir, Your third leader (November 27) is correct in questioning the mechanisms with which "disturbing aspects" of the case in which I was found guilty of professional misconduct have been brought to light.

I do not believe that the Royal College of Surgeons bears any responsibility in this matter, though we do have the opinion of its president that "it was the responsibility of the surgeon who admitted a patient to ensure that he or she was cared for, either by himself or by another surgeon who was coming on duty." Substantially the same conclusion was arrived at by the Tower Hamlets advisory panel reporting on the Wendy Savage case (see *British Medical Journal*, October 25, 1986, page 1092).

I have twice requested public enquiries to be made into the conditions of work with which I have been confronted over the past few years. To its credit, the Royal College of Surgeons reported in the autumn of 1983 on these problems. It is unfortunate that the advice was unacceptable to my colleagues or the regional health authority, thus placing me in a serious minority position.

### Security service over-mighty?

The real issue arising from the Wright case is, which is the paramount authority, security services or government? It can now be seen, thanks to Mr Wright, that the present system, with its emphasis on absolute secrecy on the part of everyone, can conduce to the omnipotence of the security service.

Even a prime minister may feel the need to appeal against it, as did, according to report, Lord Wilson. It is difficult, however, to see to whom he or she may appeal unless it be to a small body of privy counsellors drawn from more than one political party. Yours faithfully,  
AUBREY JONES,  
89 North End House,  
Fitzjames Avenue, W14.

From Mr K. I. McCullum  
Sir, In the current life spy drama no one seems to have asked the obvious question. Why, if so many senior British intelligence officers were Russian moles, has this made so little difference? Britain has remained intact, the foundations of Nato are uncrumbled, the wheels of international diplomacy have continued to turn.

Are the dire consequences of all the double dealing too secret to be revealed? Or could it be that Professor J. C. Masterman, who was in a position to know, got it right when he suggested that in time of peace the elaborate game of espionage and counter-espionage is largely a waste of time?

Yours sincerely,  
IAN MCCULLUM,  
Combesbury Farm,  
Backland St Mary,  
Chard, Somerset.

### Country of origin

From Mr Rupert Blum  
Sir, The letter by Sir Edward du Cann and others of the Conservative Parliamentary Group for European Reform seems to confuse the obligation to show the country of origin on consumer products with the right of producers to continue doing so. The proposed repeal of the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 will in no way affect that right.

My own county of Herefordshire produces some excellent products. When firms judge that buyers will be attracted by being made aware of its origin, there is nothing in the EEC Treaty to prevent them marking the product "Made in Herefordshire, England (or Great Britain or UK)".  
Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT BLUM,  
Prior House,  
Stoke Prior,  
Leominster,  
Herefordshire,  
December 5.

### Sports ground

From Mr C. G. Buck  
Sir, Let me add emphasis to John Goodbody's telling articles (December 2, 3) about the appalling rates burdens which amateur sports clubs are made to bear.

The rates bill for Lords cricket ground is quoted as £25,700. Ours, for a comparable area in the southern outskirts of Sheffield, is £45,000.  
Yours sincerely,  
C. G. BUCK (President,  
Sheffield Amateur Sports Club),  
The Grange,  
Bradway,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
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## ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 12 1854

The storm which preceded the terrible first winter in the Crimea caused most damage at sea, where, at least 30 Allied ships were sunk. The most serious loss was the *Prince*, loaded with 40,000 new uniforms, underwear, hats, gloves, medical supplies and ammunition. By comparison it was possible almost to make light of the storm losses on land. The *Prince*, which The Times correspondent, William Howard Russell, was attached. The censored exclamation was presumably "Egad!"

### THE BRITISH EXPEDITION.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)  
Camp before Sebastopol, Nov. 14  
The camp was visited by a hurricane today. It commenced shortly after 6 o'clock am, and was preceded by rain and squalls from SW and SSW.  
For about an hour I had been in a listless state between waking and sleeping, listening to the pelting of the rain against the fluttering canvas of the tent, or dodging the streams of water which flowed underneath it, saturating our blankets and collecting on the manganesh sheets in pools. The sound of the rain, its heavy beating on the earth, had become gradually swallowed up by the noise of the rushing of the wind over the common, and by the flapping of the tents as they rocked more violently beneath its force. Gradually the sides of the canvas, which were tucked in under big stones to secure them, began to rise and flutter, parasailing the wind to enter playfully and drive before it sheets of rain right into one's face; the pegs began to indicate painful indentation and want of firmness of purpose...

At every fresh blast the pole of the tent trembled and bent like a salmon rod; the canvas tugged at the ropes to pull them up, and the pegs wailed in protest. A standing candle I looked at my companions, who seemed determined to shut out all sound and sense by piling as much clothes as they could collect over their heads. A roar of wind, and the pole bent until the fatal "crack" was heard again. "Get up, doctor! up with you; E-1, the tent is coming down!" The Doctor rose from beneath his *tamulus* of clothes. Now, if there was anything in which the Doctor put confidence man was beaten to the earth, and in the middle of it, but he used to argue, on sound anatomical, mathematical, and physical principles, that the bend was a decided improvement, and he believed that no power of Aeolus could ever shake it.

He looked at the pole blandly, as he looks at all things, put out his hand, and shook it. "Why, man," said he reverentially, "that's all right — that pole would stand for ever," and then he crouched down and burrowed under his bedclothes. Scarcely had he given the last convulsive heave of the blankets which indicates perfect comfort and satisfaction, when a harsh screaming sound, increasing in vehemence as it approached, struck us with horror. As it passed along we heard the snapping of tent ropes and the thrashing of timber and canvas. "The pole breaks off short in the middle, as if it were glass, and in an instant we were pressed down and half stifled by the heavy folds of the wet canvas, which beat us about the head with the greatest fury. Half breathless and blind, I struggled for the door. Such a sight as met the eye! The tent, the quilts, the number tubes, bed-clothes, sheets of tent-canvas went whirling like leaves in the gale towards Sebastopol...

Now and then a cruel gale of sunshine absolutely shot out of a rift in the walls of clouds and rendered the misery of the scene more striking. Gathered up as we were under the old wall, we could not but think with anxious hearts of our fate at sea — of our transports off Balaklava and the *Katrina* — of the men in the trenches and on picket. Alas! we had too much reason for our anxiety.

Nov 15... The fall of this tree, which had seen many winters, coupled with the fact that the verandah and balconies of the houses and a row of very fine acacia trees on the beach were blown down corroborates the statement, so generally made by the inhabitants that they had never seen or heard of such a hurricane in their lifetime, although there is a tradition among some that once in 30 or 40 years such visitations occur along this coast. In its present condition Balaklava is utterly indescribable...

### Breath of summer

From Mr James W. Gillett  
Sir, On December 3, within minutes of seeing the first snow-drops in bloom, my wife was stung by a wasp!  
Yours faithfully,  
J. W. GILLETT,  
16 Lea Road,  
Amptill,  
Bedford,  
December 6.







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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES DEATHS

BIRTHS

On December 10th, Harry Murray Owen, dearly loved husband of June, father of Richard and Tim, died at home, aged 72.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

On December 12th, 1936, at St Paul's Cathedral, London, the Rev. Canon Barry, Rector of St Paul's, was celebrating his Golden Wedding Anniversary.

DEATHS

On December 10th, 1986, at home, aged 72, Harry Murray Owen, dearly loved husband of June, father of Richard and Tim, died at home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS CHRISTMAS please help our charity, the Leukaemia Research Fund, by donating a small amount to the Christmas Appeal.

WANTED

SALE of 20,000 Christmas cards, 1986, in various designs, available at a special price.

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 terrace.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Worldwide low-cost flights to over 100 destinations, including London, Paris, Rome, and New York.

DISCOUNTED FARES

Lowest fares to London, Paris, Rome, and New York, starting from just £100.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the estate of the late Mr. John Smith, deceased, is being administered by the undersigned.

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A Memorial Service will be held for the late Mr. John Smith, on Friday, December 19th, 1986, at 11.00 am.

IN MEMORIAM - WAR

In grateful memory of the late Mr. John Smith, who served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

In loving memory of the late Mrs. Jane Smith, who passed away on December 10th, 1986.

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Thousands of people need your help to ease the pain of cancer. Leukaemia Research Fund. How near we are to the cure... depends on you.

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# Warsaw Pact talks 'soon'

From Richard Owen and Frederick Bonmart, Brussels

Nato is to hold direct talks for the first time with the Warsaw Pact on conventional arms control "from the Atlantic to the Urals". Preparatory talks are to begin in Vienna "as soon as possible" to establish where the new negotiations will take place and on what basis. Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, yesterday told Nato Foreign Ministers that the Western alliance was in confident mood and American foreign policy was "up and running" after recent setbacks.

Signor Marcello Guidi, the Nato Deputy Secretary-General, said Nato was ready to open talks with the Warsaw Pact to define a mandate for the negotiations.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, stressed the urgent need to give the Nato task force on conventional forces the necessary political push to get on with its work. He said it was vital to balance conventional as well as nuclear weapons after the Iceland summit.

The initial Nato-Warsaw Pact contacts would not be within the framework of the Mutual and Balance Force Reduction (MBFR) talks or the European Security Review Conference (ESCR), both of which are being held in Vienna, officials said. It is not clear how the new form will affect the MBFR talks, which are limited to troop levels in central Europe and have been in the doldrums for more than 13 years.

A significant aspect of yesterday's declaration is that it was approved by all 16 Nato members, including France, which does not participate in MBFR. France had wanted the new talks to be within the framework of the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures, which involves 35 nations, rather than bloc to bloc talks. Signor Guidi insisted that the new talks were not bloc to bloc but announced to group negotiations between 16 and 7 — the 16 Nato members and the seven from the Warsaw Pact.

The Brussels declaration stressed the need for effective verification in conventional arms, involving on-site inspection and detailed exchanges of information — the current sticking point at the MBFR talks.

# Royal romance jewels for sale



The Duchess of Windsor with some examples of her large collection of jewellery. The tassled cabochon necklace, left, was made by Van Cleef and Arpels and the tiger bracelet, right, by Cartier. The Duchess sold her famous canary diamond ring.

The gifts of love that King Edward VIII lavished on Wallis Simpson will go under the hammer next spring. The sale of the Duchess of Windsor's fabulous collection of jewels will take place at Sotheby's in Geneva on April 2 and 3 and is expected to raise over £5 million for the Institut Pasteur — the beneficiary of the Windsor estate.

The most emotive pieces will be those that chart the royal romance in loving inscriptions. The 30 pieces dedicated to the woman who captured the heart of the King, include the ruby necklace given to Mrs Simpson on her 40th birthday in 1936, inscribed "My Wallis from her David" and the sapphire and diamond bracelet from Van Cleef and Arpels that the King gave her on their marriage.

Wallis Simpson's bracelet of gold crosses, which scandalized the world when worn with scanty beach clothes on the cruise in the Nahlin in the summer of 1936, was a tal-

isman. Each cross is movingly inscribed and marks a particular event in their lives. Although the Royal romance provides emotional and historical interest, the Duchess of Windsor's collection of jewellery is supremely important from an aesthetic point of view. The sale will be, according to David Bennett, the Director of Jewellery at Sotheby's, London, "the summit of my career".

The fantastic menagerie of animal designs made for the Duchess of Windsor by

Jeanne Toussaint of Cartier are among 87 significant pieces from the Paris jewellers. The collection of Cartier crosses includes an articulated diamond tiger bracelet that wraps round the wrists like a moving animal, and two cat bracelets with precious stones; a pavé-set diamond brooch with a central sapphire of 152.35 carats, worth £5,000

when the Duke bought it from Cartier in 1949, and an equally impressive prowling panther brooch holding an emerald.

The 23 pieces by Van Cleef and Arpels includes the wedding bracelets, a tasselled cabochon ruby necklace and a pair of exquisitely 1940s diamond clips containing stones of 40.8 and 52 carats.

Mr David Bennett, who first viewed the collection for Sotheby's in a Paris bank vault two weeks ago says: "It is such an amazing collection because it shows great taste, not just an agglomeration of jewels. It was a very moving experience for me. The inscriptions give the feeling of this great love affair."

Some of the Duchess's jewellery was sold privately during her twilight years. These pieces included her enormous canary diamond ring.

The Duchess of Windsor's jewellery will be considered the sale of the century by jewellery historians

By Suzy Menkes

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# Foreign Office admits envoy at Contra talks

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Foreign Office admitted yesterday that a British diplomat attended a meeting of Contra leaders in Costa Rica last month at which American officials allegedly discussed the formation of a "rebel" government in Nicaragua.

In the Commons a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, demanded a statement from Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, about a move which he later likened to sending a representative to a meeting of the IRA.

Mr Tim Wilesey, First Secretary in San José, attended the United Nicaraguan Opposition in San José, Costa Rica, on November 24 and 25.

Whitehall sources stressed he was present as an observer. The Foreign Office insisted that the meeting had not been secret and that the diplomat had attended as part of his duty to report developments.

Quoting a "very reliable source", Mr Foulkes claimed the meeting discussed the establishment of a provisional "rebel" government in the eastern part of Nicaragua which the US hoped would be recognized by other countries. He described the Foreign Office interpretation as naive.

MANAGUA: A Nicaraguan court yesterday confirmed a 20-year jail sentence imposed on Eugene Hasenfus, a US citizen, for running guns to anti-government rebels (Reuter reports).

# Anderton crusade against Aids

Continued from page 1

even those of other men despite the risks involved? Why is that question not asked on television every day instead of asking people to wear condoms?

"Why do drug pushers and dealers create a vehicle for the horror of Aids? Why is that question not asked on television every couple of hours of every day?"

"And why do pornographers spread their filth to add to the boom?"

Mr Anderton said there was a moral dilemma that was not being addressed. "What I have said and my views — are they right and are they relevant? You may dismiss them as wildly inaccurate, uninformed, biased or based on self-satisfied moral indignation."

Later the chief constable denied he had been advocating the introduction of harsh new laws against homosexuality, prostitution and pornography.

Greater Manchester police are forerunners of law enforcement moves to improve protection for policemen having to deal with criminals suspected of being infected with or carrying Aids.

A special school for disturbed children at Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington, Co Durham, has refused to admit a teenager who is carrying the Aids virus. Staff are often attacked and sometimes bitten

# Frank Johnson at the Commons An object lesson in being boring

The marathon attempt by the Opposition to be so boring about education that yesterday's sitting of the House could not take place has ended in victory for the Labour team.

Almost 24 hours earlier, the House had begun the committee stage and third reading of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill, the measure which enables the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, to impose a settlement in the teachers' pay dispute. The Government wanted to get the bill through quickly.

The Opposition had no power to stop that. But by debating it for as long as possible, the Opposition hoped to subject the Government to the inconvenience of losing a day's business. That meant a connoisseur's night of first class boredom played under Test conditions.

Labour managed to bore on until dawn broke over a comatose chamber, and went on to achieve its objective of still droning at 2.30 in the afternoon. That was the time at which yesterday's sitting was supposed to begin.

But, under National Tedium rules, if a sitting is still continuing at a time when the next sitting is due to begin, the latter sitting cannot take place. All the business which would have been included in that sitting is deemed to be lost.

At 3.24 pm, the Opposition voiced no objection to the Bill receiving its third reading because, by then, Labour had succeeded in its main objective of preventing the follow on.

If it really wants to deal with any of the business which it would otherwise have dealt with yesterday, the Government will have to find another day for it.

The main debate yesterday would have been about Northern Ireland. The Government does not care much about Northern Ireland, and so was not particularly put out by losing the business. That makes Labour's exercise rather pointless.

But to put too much emphasis on that would be to undermine the faith of scores of simple Labour members who kept being woken all night to vote in the endless divisions which punctuated the match. For in all-night games of this kind the actual play is carried by the handi-

of bones fielded in the chamber itself. The rest of the party is slumped around the Palace of Westminster, snoring, eating successive breakfasts and voting when summoned to do so by the terrible bells.

When play started early on Thursday evening, there was some doubt whether Labour would keep going for the near-24 hours required to win. This was because, as was pointed out here yesterday, most of them were teachers. They tend to be boring enough when they have the aid of a blackboard and chalk. But they are not so hot when their only prop is a Commons order paper.

At the night wore on, the left-winger Mr Martin Flannery was the only one among of the teachers who was soporific up to international standards. But then, he is a former headmaster who would have practised over many a school speech day.

The Labour captain, its education spokesman, Mr Giles Radice, came in for a lot of adverse criticism as his tactics. Know-alls denounced his team selection. He had relied too much on middle-class players like himself, it was suggested.

So at 2.32 am he put in a minder. Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) rose and played a classic innings of nearly two hours. Much of it had only a glancing relationship with the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill.

Another working-class player, Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North) found an excuse to tell the House, deep in the night, that he had just returned from the picket line at Wapping. Perhaps he goes that every night, or dream it, or is a sleepwalker.

The moment when yesterday's business was lost was an emotional one. The digital clock reached 2.30pm. Various Tories immediately complained that the day's Prime Ministerial question time had been lost and the House would not enjoy the spectacle of the Prime Minister bludgeoning Mr Kinnock about nuclear weapons, the Wright trial, and his lonely wanderings in the United States. That explained everything.

The Chamber was strewn with the debris of the long night. And that was only the MPs.

# Today's events

## Royal engagements

The Queen arrives at Doncaster Station, 9.45; visits Doncaster Leisure Centre, 10.05; arrives at the Brampton Centre, 11; Barnsley Council for Voluntary Services, 11.45; Barnsley Town Hall for lunch, 12.15; later visits Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Hillsborough, 2.30; Sheffield Town Offices, 3.15; Sheffield Assay Hall, 3.45; leaves from Sheffield Station, 4.15.

The Prince of Wales visits the Gloucestershire Association for the Disabled at Stuart House, Minchinhampton, 2.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor, presides at the Honorary Degree Ceremonies at Surrey University, 4.10.

Princess Alexandra attends a gala performance of "Cinderella" in aid of the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at the Richmond Theatre, Richmond, Surrey, 7.35.

New exhibitions: Alfred Munnings' paintings.

Athenaeum Gallery, Princess Street, Manchester (ends Jan 25).

Last Chance to see: Modern works bequeathed by Molly Freeman; Eldon Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Tue to Sat 10 - 4, Sun 2 - 4.

The Forest: Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton.

Paintings by T.P. Flanagan; Fermanagh County Museum, Enniskillen, 10.1 - 2.5.

Quintessence of Landscape and Bronze Age Moor by Maria Walker Last, and recent drawings and prints by Barry Herbert, University of Leeds gallery, Leeds, 10 - 5.

Artists in Handsworth: Holyhead Community School, Florence Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 10 - 9.

Music: Mondrian Trio, Keiso High School, Eskdale, 7.30.

Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Norman Jarvi; Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Ladies of the Leicester Philharmonic Chorus; De Montfort Hall, Leicester, 7.30.

St Edmund's School Carol Service; Cathedral Church of Christ, Canterbury, 7.30.

General: Live broadcast of Radio 4's Any Questions, St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 7.30.

Roads: London and South-east: A20: Delays, lane closures and diversions between Perry Street and Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, A10: Restricting northbound between Hoddesdon and Rush Green interchanges. Alderholt: Road race, avoid town between 10 am and noon.

Midlands: M5: Major work between junctions 5 (Northwich) and 6 (Worcester North). Northbound on by at junction 6 closed. A456: Bypass building at Bewdley, severe congestion. M1: Peak time delays between junctions 15 and 16 near Northampton.

North: M6: Delays between junctions 29 and 32 (Chester/High 118). M65: Lane restrictions and slip road closures at Barton Bridge, severe peak time delays. A1: Major repairs and contraflow at Brotherton bypass, West Yorkshire, diversions.

Wales and west: M4: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Swindon and Chippenham). M5: Lane closures between junctions 27 and 28 (Warton/Horton). A55: Slip lane between Golewen and Chirk, Chwyd, long delays.

Scotland: A75: Single line three miles east of Glenelg, delays. A77: Two sets of roadworks between Glasgow and Ayr, delays. A108: Closed at the east end of Abersly due to gas explosion.

Information supplied by AA.

# Top Films

The top box-office films in London:

- 1) Labyrinth
- 2) The Mission
- 3) Top Gun
- 4) Round Midnight
- 5) Men in Black
- 6) A Room with a View
- 7) Running Scared
- 8) Big Trouble in Little China
- 9) Ruthless
- 10) True Stories

The top films in the provinces:

- 1) Top Gun
- 2) Ruthless
- 3) Running Scared
- 4) Men in Black
- 5) Big Trouble in Little China

# Top video rentals

- 1) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
- 2) Fright Night
- 3) Spies Like Us
- 4) Santa Claus: The Movie
- 5) Silver Bullet
- 6) The Delta Force
- 7) The Running of the Bulls
- 8) The Untouchables
- 9) The Untouchables
- 10) Demons

# The pound

Country	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.85	1.85
Belgium	2.18	2.18
Canada	0.92	0.92
Denmark	11.32	11.32
France	6.57	6.57
Germany	3.28	3.28
Italy	1.48	1.48
Japan	163.20	163.20
Netherlands	2.20	2.20
Spain	169.50	169.50
Sweden	4.60	4.60
Switzerland	2.51	2.51
USA	1.49	1.49
Yugoslavia	62	62

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC.

Real Price Index: 288.6

London: The FT index closed down 0.8 at 2947.7.

# Anniversaries

Births: Gustave Flaubert, Rouen, 1821; Edward Munch, painter, Løten, Norway, 1863.

Deaths: Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, London, 1849; Robert Browning, Venice, 1889; Douglas Fairbanks, Santa Monica, California, 1959; Tallulah Bankhead, actress, New York, 1968.

# Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debates on private members' motions on defence projects and exports and on employment and training initiatives.

# Christmas post

Today is the latest recommended date for posting air mail, Christmas cards, printed papers, letters and postcards to most European and eastern European countries.

# Food prices

Deciding what meat to have for Christmas dinner does present a problem. So much depends on the size of the party, and if it is a big gathering, turkey is an expensive choice. However, beef and goose have an even longer tradition.

The problem with goose is the meat to bone ratio. You will need at least 1 lb per person. Prices vary. A local butcher is selling at 1.75 per lb whereas at a well-known large store a 9lb goose costs just over £26 and a 12lb bird a little over £34. A large rib of beef at an average price of £1.54 per lb is well worth thinking about.

Home produced lamb prices have soared this week. Leg, chops and shoulder are up by about 6p per lb. New Zealand lamb leg is also up by 6p per lb but the other cuts show just a marginal increase.

Meat and poultry on promotion in shops and supermarkets include: Presta, topside of beef £1.88 per lb, boneless shoulder of pork £1.99 per lb; Tesco, whole shoulder of lamb 69p per lb and British Standard Grade A oven ready frozen turkey 54p per lb; Downman's, Downman's style frozen turkey 59p per lb and large roasting chickens 59p per lb; Fine Fare frozen leg of pork 99p per lb. Red Delicious apples from Canada 39 to 55p per lb are now widely available.

They are crisp and juicy and look wonderful. Best Comes 25p to 45p per lb are also good but these are quite a lot of rather woolly cheap ones. Grapes are plentiful and cheap. Brussels sprouts 9 to 20p per lb, English winter cabbage 15 to 20p per lb, carrots 10 to 18p, parsnips 18 to 20p, mushrooms 50 to 90p, broccoli 50 to 70p per lb are among the best buys.

All home grown vegetables are plentiful and cheap. Brussel sprouts 9 to 20p per lb, English winter cabbage 15 to 20p per lb, carrots 10 to 18p, parsnips 18 to 20p, mushrooms 50 to 90p, broccoli 50 to 70p per lb are among the best buys.

Chinese leaves 40 to 55p a head. Royal Beetroot 12 to 20p per lb and tomatoes 40 to 70p per lb are the best salad buys.

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# WEATHER

A frontal system will affect northern and western areas. England and Wales will have a mostly bright and dry morning, with some sunshine. However, some thicker cloud may linger in the extreme SE. During the afternoon, cloud will thicken over Wales, W and N England, bringing some rain. After a bright start, with a few showers in E Scotland, wet and very windy weather, already over Northern Ireland at dawn, will spread quickly NE to affect all N Britain. The far NW will turn clearer, but with showers during the evening. Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Showers or longer spells of rain on Saturday. Some dry and bright weather on Sunday, showers in the N.

# HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	10.54	6.11
Aberdeen	10.51	







WALL STREET

Blue chips stronger on buyout offer

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares were mixed in moderate trading as blue chips drew strength from Owens, Illinois, a Dow average component stock that rose sharply after news that it had received a buyout offer.

US retail sales gain 0.5% to \$122.3bn

Washington (Reuters) - Retail sales in the US rose by \$634 million (£452 million), or 0.5 per cent, in November to a seasonally adjusted figure of \$122.3 billion, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

Polly Peck to buy Russell Hobbs in £12m TI deal

By Alison Eadie

Polly Peck International, the fruit packaging, electronics, textiles, and mineral bottling group run by Mr Asil Nadir, is buying Russell Hobbs and Tower Housewares from TI Group for £12 million cash.



Asil Nadir: 'acquisitions part of an international strategy' The acquisitions will provide a strong manufacturing base in Britain from which to market the two famous brand names internationally, the company said.

count for only 15 per cent of sales. The company wants to build more of a presence in Britain. It has some textile manufacturing in the Britain through Wearwell, which has diminished and is no longer large enough to mop up the company's unrelieved Advanced Corporation Tax.

Challenge over life assurance earnings

By Lawrence Lever The banks and building societies are facing a legal challenge to their practice of not disclosing the amount of commission they earn on sales of life assurance products.

Table with columns for Dec 10, Dec 9, Dec 10, Dec 9, Dec 10, Dec 9. Lists various stocks and their percentage changes.

The moderate increase came after a revised drop of \$6.7 billion, or 5.2 per cent, in October. Previously, the department said sales in October had fallen 5 per cent.

Without car sales, which fell \$189 million in November, sales for the month were up \$823 million, or 0.9 per cent, to \$94.2 billion, the department said.

Industrial co-ops want more cash

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor A plea for more cash has gone to the Government from the Co-operative Development Agency, which receives aid of £200,000 a year to boost the growth of industrial and commercial co-operatives.

BSC buys Dutch steel stockholder

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent The British Steel Corporation, which is top of the list for privatization in the next election, yesterday continued its drive to become a more international company with the takeover of a long-established Dutch steel stockholder.

HALF YEAR RESULTS ON TARGET

Table with columns for RENTAL & RETAIL, TECHNOLOGY, MUSIC, CONSUMER & COMMERCIAL. Rows include Turnover, Operating profit, Pre-tax profit, Earnings per share, Dividend for 1986 and 1985.

For further details please contact Corporate Communications Department, THORN EMI plc, THORN EMI House, Upper Saint Martin's Lane, London, WC2H 9ED



RHP profits leap 60%

Pre-tax profits at RHP, the mechanical and electrical engineering group, rose nearly 60 per cent from £11.1 million to £17.7 million in the year to October 3, on turnover up 28 per cent to £164.1 million.

THE GAS LINES. Phone for latest prices or ask for our British Gas "How to Deal" information sheet. Open for dealing seven days this week. ALL DEALINGS COMMISSION FREE.

LONDON TAX FREE SHOPPING. VAT FREE FOR TOURISTS. Good news for retailers. The TFS system for refunding VAT to overseas visitors has now been operating nationwide for several months.

Avon set to raise £10.8m

By Richard Lander Avon Rubber, the tyres, inflatable craft and industrial polymers group, is making a one-for-four rights call to raise £10.8 million.

BRITISH GAS BUY OR SELL. NO COMMISSION. CALL FOR COMPETITIVE PRICE. LONDON: 01-483 5022. MANCHESTER: 061-238 1330. BRISTOL: 031-228 5445.

BASE LENDING RATES. ABN... 11.00%. Adam & Company... 11.00%. BCCI... 11.00%.



STOCK MARKET

Barclay brothers may sell their 10% stake in IC Gas

By Carol Leonard

The referral of the £730 million bid for Gulf Resources for Imperial Continental Gas to the Monopolies Commission could put an end to the bid once and for all.

Talk in the market that the Barclay brothers, who control Gulf, had already sold their 10.6 per cent stake in IC Gas is not true, but such a sale may not be far away.

Mr David Barclay said yesterday: "We still have our stake, but we are reviewing the situation at this very moment."

He said that they have "at least a week" to decide whether to stay with their bid.

The recovery of a number of diamonds from the Argyle Mine in Australia is causing analysis to look favourably on Ashton Mining, which has a 38 per cent stake in the project.

Some brokers still believe, however, that if the Barclays sell their stake, it may be picked up by yet another predator. They say that if another bid is launched, it will have to be an agreed deal.

The demerger plans proposed by the IC Gas board on Wednesday are broadly the same as the plans being proposed by the Barclay brothers.

And the prospect of a company split creating two separate publicly quoted units, one containing its Belgian investments and the other comprising Calor Gas and its oil exploration interests, yesterday boosted the IC Gas share price by 24p to 552p.

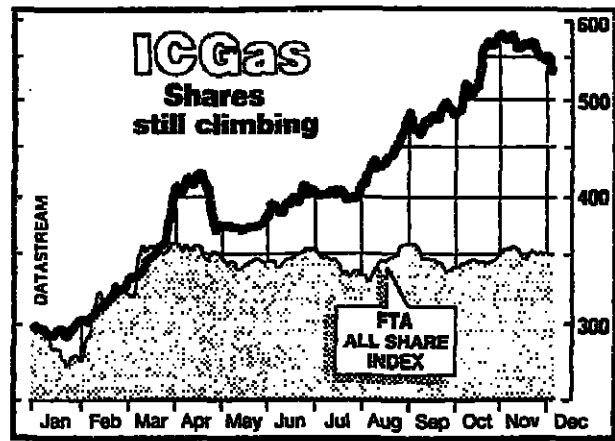
Market men believe that such a split would cause the company's share price to more accurately reflect its asset value and it is this belief that caused yesterday's rise.

If the IC Gas directors go ahead with these proposals, they would virtually destroy the argument being put forward by the Barclays.

Mr Brian Wilmut, the finance director at IC Gas, said yesterday that the company had every intention of going ahead with the proposals, subject to tax clearance.

He explained: "We applied to the Inland Revenue for clearance about three weeks ago and we hope to hear before Christmas."

Elsewhere, the stock market was quietly firm, although it closed off its best level of the day. The FT-SE 100 index had gained 6.4 points by 10 am but closed 0.6 of a point lower at 1,634.0.



company in which IC Gas has a 7 per cent stake. Petrofina has better asset backing than Gulf and has only minor interests in Britain and so would be more likely to escape a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Elsewhere, the stock market was quietly firm, although it closed off its best level of the day. The FT-SE 100 index had gained 6.4 points by 10 am but closed 0.6 of a point lower at 1,634.0.

The gilt-edged market saw a burst of trading after lunch following the suggestion, in the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin, that oil will reach \$20 a barrel by 1988.

before the company unveils its results next Thursday.

Glaxo advanced 15p to 960p - on American buying - BTR 7p to 276p, ICI 20p to 1,107p, while TrustHouse Forte slipped 5p to 177p on talk that it is about to buy a 15 per cent stake in Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Among newcomers, Widing Office Equipment, the office equipment retailer, opened at a 13p premium on its 135p placing price, before settling back at 146p.

British Gas firmed 1.5p to 62.5p with 161 million shares traded in the stock market, but City analysts say they are likely to ease a couple of pence by next Tuesday, the day

Shares in Brierley Investments, the master company of Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, made their debut on the London stock market yesterday and made a 10p premium on their 215p placing price. Chase Manhattan Securities is market-maker for Brierley.

when most small shareholders will receive their allotment letters and will thus, for the first time, be in a position to sell.

The allotment letters, telling investors how many shares they have been allocated, are being posted on Monday.

Mr Simon Elliston, an energy analyst at Savory Millin, the broker, says: "The shares have been firm in line with the rest of the oil sector, but come next Tuesday I think we'll see a couple of pence off the price."

The 20 per cent argument, that a lot of small shareholders will hold on to their shares because of the 20 per cent yield they'll get from dividends and vouchers doesn't really hold water. Even if the price drops to 60p, that still works out at a 20 per cent profit and they can get their shares just by selling their instantly - without having to wait all year."

The rest of the oil sector was in an optimistic mood as the Opec meeting got underway in Geneva. BF gained 6p to 681p, Shell 3p to 948p, Enterprise 5.5p to 151.5p.

Market sentiment towards the members of the consortium which was awarded the franchise for Direct Broadcasting by Satellite was initially favourable, although analysis stressed it was difficult to immediately gauge the full implications of such a costly and technically complex project.

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COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Bank of England sings the Treasury's tune

The Bank of England has always resisted the popular notion that it is the Chancellor of the Exchequer's poodle. But the assessment contained in its latest Quarterly Bulletin is either a remarkable example of powerful minds in harmony or the result of the Bank's over-indulging in Bonio biscuits.

The Bank thinks that the Treasury's inflation projections are quite reasonable; that British exporters will be sufficiently spurred by the devalued pound to bring the current account back to surplus; and that monetary conditions - since the raising of bank base rates in October - are broadly satisfactory. The Bank finds no argument with the Treasury's forecast of a £1-£2 billion current account deficit next year, or of inflation rising to 4 per cent but not more.

All this is based on a Treasury assumption that the oil price will remain at \$15 a barrel. Later in the Bulletin, when the Bank comes on to wider economic prospects, we find that the in-house view is that oil prices will rise from the present \$15 a barrel to \$20 a barrel by early 1988, with consequences for inflation, the balance of payments and the exchange rate about which the Bank declines to speculate.

A similar inconsistency comes with the expectation that Britain's trade will respond to the sharp sterling fall that has occurred, but that other

countries' balance of payments are relatively immune. Whereas the 16 per cent fall in the value of sterling should be enough to bring our current account round, the US current deficit remains stuck at \$125 billion (£87 billion) next year, in spite of a 30 per cent fall in the dollar. And Japan's current account surplus is forecast to widen to \$100 billion next year.

There is a definite feeling of déjà vu about the Bank's assessment of monetary conditions. Basically, the statistics are rather foggy, partly because of the British Gas privatization, partly because of the switch to calendar month money numbers. Two years ago, when British Telecom came to the market, the money figures were also rendered unreliable. Then as now, the Bank's verdict was that monetary conditions were tight enough. The January 1985 sterling crisis and a 4½ point interest rate hike duly followed.

There is no overwhelming reason why history should repeat itself, but the Bank's grounds for thinking that it will not look somewhat thin. They are that the exchange rate has stabilized, albeit just above its all-time low; that house and equity prices are rising less quickly, which could mean that excess money is going into goods rather than assets; and that narrow money, M0, remains within target range. If the markets scent blood, they may need a little more than this to keep the hounds at bay.

Muddying the waters

Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has muddied the swirling waters of competition policy with his decision to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the £750 million takeover offer for IC Gas, the group widely known for Calor Gas. It is difficult to reconcile this move with recent referrals which have been appraised almost solely on the grounds of competition rather than the wider issues permitted by the Fair Trading legislation.

For practitioners in the City and companies seeking to grow by acquisition, Norman Tebbit's decision to give preference to competition aspects of a proposed merger were a welcome simplification of a policy which had become confused and confusing. The process had become too much like a lottery and the scope for subjective assessments by panel members, too great.

The IC Gas reference is a retrograde step. It is based not on questions of competition but on tenuous surmise about what might happen should the bidder prove to have over-extended itself in a highly leveraged offer.

Yet, the gearing issue was aired thoroughly in the commission's recent investigation into the bid for Allied-Lyons by the Australian, Elders IXL.

The bidder, Gulf Resources, showed the Office of Fair Trading forecasts which indicated that cash-flow cover for debt service was comfortable following the disposal of IC Gas's Belgian interests.

The Government has given in to a sustained campaign by its own backbenchers. This is not the way to administer competition policy.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, would no doubt agree, or would he?

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Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, would no doubt agree, or would he?

He recently told an audience in Scotland: "I do not question that it is right that the primary emphasis in any mergers policy should be on the promotion of, more aptly, the protection of competition. For the most part, competition is the best way of ensuring that markets work efficiently, that firms produce the sort of goods and services that consumers want at as low a cost as possible, and that our industries are competitive from an international standpoint."

Why he decided in favour of referring IC Gas is mildly mystifying.

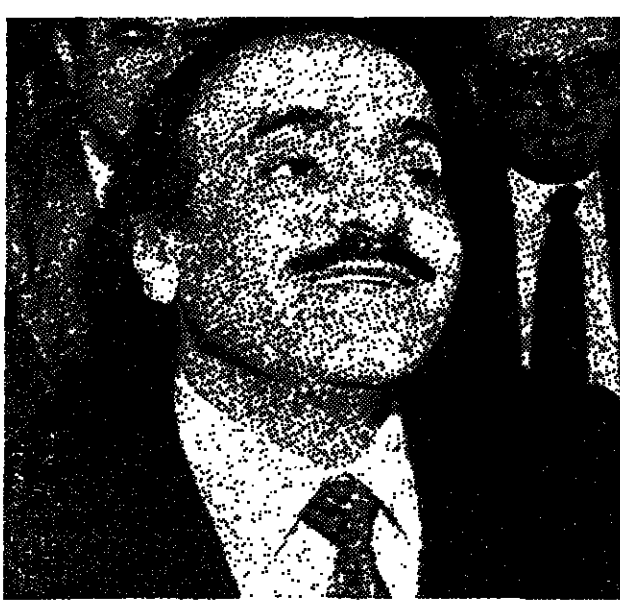
ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

Table with columns for 1986 High/Low Company, Price Bid/Ask, Change, Gross Div, Yield, Volume, and 1986 High/Low Company, Price Bid/Ask, Change, Gross Div, Yield, Volume. Lists various stocks like Allied-Lyons, BTR, BAT, etc.

Opec scrapes the bottom of the \$15 oil barrel

How the future of exploration and employment in the North Sea oil industry may depend on members of the producers' cartel reaching a workable deal to push up prices to \$18 a barrel



Sheikh Hisham Nazer: holds the key to a price rise

As Opec struggles with an agreement to send world oil prices higher, the oil companies are preparing to end a year of unprecedented redundancies and staff reshuffles.

Almost every company has had to tell engineers, drillers and geologists their special skills are no longer needed. With oil at \$15 a barrel, the projects they were working on are no longer economical.

Even those oil companies with no staff directly involved in drilling and production have had to bear a share of the cost. Mostly they are partners in operations with larger companies and each worker's salary cheque is apportioned according to the time he spends on each project.

If a company has, for instance, a 10 per cent share in a project, it reaps 10 per cent of the eventual profits, but has to pay 10 per cent of the costs. That, as some have discovered, means 10 per cent of the redundancy costs involved.

This, the industry's "general and administrative" system, has meant that when Britoil has shed more than 700 skilled oil workers, the massive redundancy-bill hit some smaller companies.

All eyes are now on Opec to see if its efforts at finding a formula to send prices up again are successful. Higher

prices would mean some projects could be revived and staff kept on.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, has told the industry he hopes they will "hang on in there" and retain the skills and manpower necessary if Britain is to find new and cheaper ways of transporting oil from the North Sea and from beneath the woodlands of Surrey, Sussex and Dorset.

His efforts to persuade oil companies to keep going are partly due to the need to maintain oil revenues and keep people employed in areas where the unemployment rate is already higher than the national average, and so companies will be able to take part in the bidding for the new round of licences he will put on offer early next year.

He has backed his pleas with action by winning the early repayment of advance petroleum revenue tax from the Treasury.

This will benefit companies such as Britoil and Sovereign, which have large semi-submersible drilling rigs capable of exploring the deeper and more hostile waters to the North and West of the Shetlands.

He has also made concessions in the type of equipment which can be used, while still insisting on as high a level

as possible of British content. This has meant that subsea systems, rather than expensive fixed platforms, can be used. And he has streamlined the planning system for onshore development within the parameters of environmental requirements.

In addition, he has announced that seven onshore exploration licences previously issued under the old ad hoc arrangements have been converted into the new, more tightly-controlled exploration licences.

This means that the search for oil will now take place in Fife, North and South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and on the Berkshire-Oxfordshire border.

Opec to move back towards a contract pricing system that would partly help it to achieve its aim of an \$18 price from January 1 and possibly a \$24 price by June.

It has the backing of six of the 13 Opec nations, but the key will be Saudi Arabia's stand. Should Sheikh Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, agree to a cut in Saudi Arabia's output, the price would rise.

Mr Rilwani Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister and Opec's president, made clear that Opec is all too aware of the cost to date of its policy of defending market share by allowing prices to tumble.

He said that what had happened had been a very traumatic experience for both producing and consuming countries and had cost the Opec nations \$50 billion (£35 billion) in lost oil revenues.

However, once again the Opec president attacked Britain for its decision not to trim North Sea output to help Opec restore the present supply-demand imbalance.

"Unfortunately some producers outside Opec have remained hostile to our initiative for a dialogue, even while appreciating that without such a development, which would lead to co-operation in the form of production cuts, market stability will remain illusory," he said.

"Any meaningful dialogue can only take place with an understanding that all producers, inside as well as outside Opec, share the burden of defending a higher price."

James Capel, the stockbroker says: "We still believe it is important not to become too involved in Opec politics and ignore the real world. Even given co-operation all round, we do not believe it is possible for Opec to maintain a stable \$18 oil price."

"If Opec is making a good attempt at \$18, prices might average \$16 in 1987. If not, \$14 or so looks more likely."

David Young Energy Correspondent

RHP Group plc

1986 Results

\* Profits up 60% \* EPS up 14% \* Dividend up 18%

Table showing 1986 and 1985 results for RHP Group plc. Columns: 1986 £000 (unaudited), 1985 £000. Rows: Sales, Profit before interest, Interest, Profit before tax.

RHP is a British group of companies manufacturing precision electrical and mechanical engineering products for a wide range of industries, including aerospace, automotive, communications, construction, defence, electronics, engineering, energy, process control and telecommunications.

RHP operates in the UK through subsidiaries and divisions, with subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA and agents elsewhere in the world.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from RHP Group plc, PO Box 20, Pilgrim House, High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9XY.



## GUINNESS PLC 1986 RESULTS

Second interim statement for year to 30 September 1986

- Turnover up 96% to £2,325m.
- Profit before tax and earnings per stock unit up for the fifth successive year.
- Profit before tax up 180% to £241m.
- Earnings per stock unit up 13% to 28.5p.
- Dividend up 13%.

"The excellent results we have reported today flow directly from the commitment and effort of all the management, staff and employees throughout the Guinness Group.

Ernest W. Saunders  
Chairman, December 10th 1986

  
GUINNESS PLC

# THE FACTS BEHIND THE FIGURES.

These latest figures represent the fifth year of solid growth in our businesses and include the first contribution from Distillers.

The pre-tax profit figure is up 180% and is almost six times the one reported in 1981.

On the home market, draught Guinness continued its recovery with a sales volume increase of 14% over 1985's very healthy figures.

The repackaging and successful relaunch of Guinness Extra will have a further favourable impact on sales in the coming months.

Kaliber, our recently developed alcohol-free lager, can also be relied on for future sales growth. It is now selling nationally in Great Britain as well as in the lucrative USA market.

In fact overall, in our key target development markets the USA and Western Europe sales have advanced strongly showing volume growth 30% above the previous year.

With Bells, we have virtually halted the five year decline in the United Kingdom market share.

Distillers has also been the scene of positive management action and strong financial control, resulting in a profit contribution of £134m.

Management of our worldwide spirit sales and marketing operation has been streamlined and will be relocated, outside Central London, in early 1987.

The UK spirits division is to be merged with Bells and will be headquartered in Perth, Scotland, from July 1987.

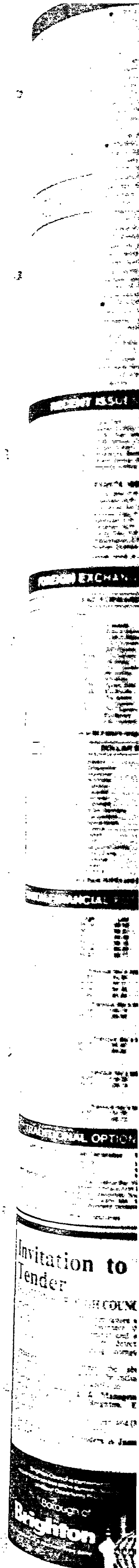
Improved efficiency has increased trading profit margins to 5% in our retail businesses ahead of plan.

The disposal of non-strategic businesses and assets has already raised nearly £200m in cash.

Our achievements in 1986 provide a platform from which we can realise the enormous potential of our unrivalled portfolio of world brands.



GUINNESS PLC



Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or note.



COMPANY NEWS

WHESSOE: Year to Sept. 27. Total payment maintained at 5.5p...

More company news on page 30

prove in 1987 and beyond, though the work shortfalls are likely to persist in certain sectors.

WAGON INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS: Half-year to Sept. 30. Interim dividend raised to 4p (3.5p)...

YELLOWHAMMER: Half-year to Sept. 30. Turnover £19.39 million (£12.46 million)...

PERICOM: Total dividend 2.5p (1.3p) for the year to Sept. 30. Turnover £16.64 million (£10.79 million)...

PHOENIX TIMBER: No interim dividend (same) for the six months to Sept. 30, but the board expects to recommend a final (nil last time)...

FLEXELLO CASTORS &

WHEELS: Total payment 4.1p (3.8p) for the year to Sept. 30. Turnover £12.93 million (£12.57 million)...

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money Rates %: Clearing Banks 11, Finance House 11.5, Discount Market Loans %...

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %: Dollar call 6 1/2-5 1/2, 1 month 6 1/2-5 1/2, 3 months 6 1/2-5 1/2...

BULLION: Gold £388.00-388.50, Silver £15.00-15.00, Platinum £1,000.00-1,000.00...

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for Series, Calls, Puts, and various stock options like Allied Lyons, Shell Trans, TSB, etc.

Table with columns for Series, Calls, Puts, and various stock options like Hanson, Midland Bank, P&O, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Market rates, Sterling spot and forward rates, and other sterling rates.

Table with columns for Dollar spot rates and other sterling rates.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, US Treasury Bond, Short Gilt, Long Gilt, and FT-SE 100.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, and For Settlement.

Invitation to Tender BRIGHTON BOROUGH COUNCIL. Tenders are invited from Companies who manufacture, install and maintain their own air conditioning equipment...

British Telecom. Investing more than ever before. The current financial year has started well with total turnover for the first six months up 14.0% compared with the same period last year...



"The current financial year has started well with total turnover for the first six months up 14.0% compared with the same period last year at £4,614 million. Excluding sales by companies acquired since the first half of last year, turnover grew by 10.7%."

Turnover from telephone calls grew by 9.4% to £2,423 million. Our inland telephone call volumes increased by 7% and international call volumes were up by 11%. We earned £1,006 million before tax which represents an 11.5% increase compared with last year. Operating costs, excluding those of new acquisitions, increased by 10.4%.

Table with columns for Second Quarter and Half Year Results for 6 months to 30 September 1986. Includes Turnover, Operating profit, Profit before taxation, etc.

INVESTING FOR A MORE MODERN NETWORK. Over £450 million of investment is planned this year on modern digital exchanges which are now being installed at the rate of one every working day. We have already laid over 100,000 miles of optical fibre...

HALF YEAR FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS. Turnover up 14.0% to £4,614m. Profit before taxation up 11.5% to £1,006m. Capital expenditure of £987m wholly funded from within the business. Over 90% of capital purchases from UK suppliers.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table of unit trusts with columns for name, bid, offer, change, and yield. Includes sections for UK Growth, UK Income, UK Property, and various international and specialty funds.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, bid, offer, change, and yield.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

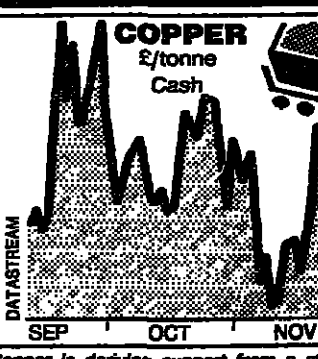
Table of investment trusts with columns for name, bid, offer, change, and yield.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including metals, grains, and livestock. Includes a 'COPPER' section with a price chart and a 'FINANCIAL TRUSTS' section.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Detailed table of financial trusts with columns for name, bid, offer, change, and yield.



COPPER \$/tonne Cash

Copper is deriving support from a strike at Noranda's Home smelter in Quebec. The smelter is running at only 10% of annual capacity since 200,000 tonnes. The strike has been in effect since 24 November and should it continue for much longer than force majeure will have to be declared. Comment by GNI.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Soyabean, Lard, and various oils.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like Tin, Lead, and Zinc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Table of meat and livestock prices including pig meat, sheep, and cattle.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of London grain futures prices for wheat, barley, and oats.

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Table of London potato futures prices.



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares remain steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end December 19. Contango day December 22. Settlement day January 5. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the weekly dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Radiant Metal, Johnston, WCRS, Redland, etc.

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper

Table with 7 columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various funds like SHORTS (Under Five Years), FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS.

UNDATED

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various undated stocks.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various index-linked stocks.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various bank discount HP stocks.

ELECTRICALS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various electrical stocks.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various cinema and TV stocks.

DRAPEY AND STORES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various drapery and stores stocks.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various hotels and caterers stocks.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various industrial stocks A-D.

BREWERIES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various brewery stocks.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various buildings and roads stocks.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various finance and land stocks.

FOODS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various food stocks.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various chemical and plastic stocks.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various motor and aircraft stocks.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various shoes and leather stocks.

TEXTILES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various textile stocks.

TOBACCO

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various tobacco stocks.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various newspaper and publisher stocks.

OIL

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various oil stocks.

E-K

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L-R

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various L-R stocks.

S-Z

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INSURANCE

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various insurance stocks.

LEISURE

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various leisure stocks.

MINING

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various mining stocks.

PROPERTY

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various property stocks.

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Portfolio Gold

© Times Newspapers Limited DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 Claims required for +36 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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© Times Newspapers Limited. Daily Dividend £4,000. Claims required for +36 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.



TEMPUS

Worst could be over for Dee share price

Dee Corporation's share price is in a sorry state. Market indignation after the issue of more than 400 million shares for acquisitions this year is only part of the explanation.

Analysts have been scrutinizing Dee's accounting policies - and finding them wanting. They are concerned that Dee's reputation for demonstrable organic growth is tarnished, and that earnings growth is now dependent on taking the benefits of acquisitions above the line, while charging the costs below the line.

Meanwhile, yesterday's interim results confirmed analysts' suspicions that the benefits of buying Fine Fare will take longer than expected to come through, and the shares fell another 4p to 202p.

This decline has probably gone far enough. With Fine Fare, Dee has 11 per cent of the food retailing market, putting it a close third behind Sainsbury and Tesco.

Margins have improved from 3.2 to 4 per cent despite the diluting effect of Fine Fare. Gearing is less than 20 per cent.

While the impact of the Fine Fare integration will not appear until 1987-88, there is no doubt that the economies of scale will be substantial.

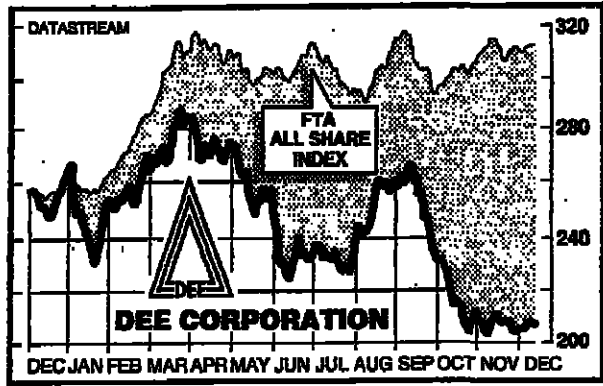
Several stores will be sold (the profits will be offset against the extraordinary costs of integration), the Fine Fare name will disappear and Gateway will be promoted as a national food chain.

Dee should make nearly £200 million pretax this year, implying a prospective multiple of 11. The shares are likely to languish until City confidence is restored.

Westland

Flying helicopters is a risky business, but so is making them. Admittedly, the turnaround achieved at Westland is impressive, but the return being earned on the core helicopter business is still a third of what it should be.

Although Westland is adamant that it will not take on unprofitable work, the market remains competitive. A £10.1 million write-back from India was eradicated by a further provision on a mystery, £250 million helicopter export contract.



against which £20 million was written-off in 1984-85. The possibility of further provisions should not be ruled out.

The order book is adequately filled for the next two years, but there is a nasty gap to be filled before the EH 101 helicopter goes into full production. Efforts are being made to win additional Ministry Of Defence and export orders.

However, unless a reasonable amount of work is picked up, further streamlining of the helicopter operation may prove necessary. In the meantime, efforts are being concentrated on improving the commercial approach as well as productivity and efficiencies.

Ideally, helicopters should not account for more than a third of group turnover. There are no plans to reduce exposure to this market, but the aerospace and technology divisions are expected to grow much faster.

Orders in these businesses are more widely spread by customer-type and are of relatively small value. Delays and cancellations have, therefore, a less damaging effect.

Yesterday's results show a convalescing Westland. There is still some way to go before it makes a decent return on assets. Indeed, gross margins last year slipped from 15 to 13 per cent.

Firing on all cylinders, Westland has the potential to double last year's profits. Existing shareholders might as well sick around as there is a dividend on the horizon, but there is no rush for potential shareholders to buy.

British Telecom

British Gas shareholders waiting for allotment letters

APPOINTMENTS

Top-level changes at NatWest

National Westminster Bank: Mr Terry Green is made a deputy group chief executive from next July. He and Mr John Plastow have joined the board. Mr John Melbourne becomes general manager, international banking from June 1.

Bensons Crisps: Mr Anthony Fildian becomes group financial director.

PA Design: Mrs Dorothy Mackenzie and Dr Bob Whelan join the board. Mr Laurence Ganzi becomes managing director, Mr Roy Gray and Mr Michael Peters joint chairmen, Mr Graham Clancy sales director and Mr Phil Seemey technical director.

London European: Mr Desal McSullivan becomes managing director.

John Laing Construction: Mr Brian Hambridge is made director, planning and sourcing, and Mr Gordon Hill director, industrial relations.

Rockware Portland: Mr Brian Webb becomes managing director.

Vallances: Mr Paul Guy is appointed chief executive, retailing.

The Design Council: Mr Hugh Laag has been made deputy chairman.

Allegiance International: Mr Thomas Alhai joins the board as chief operating officer.

Microgen: Mr Ian Martin has been appointed to the board as director, UK operations.

Taywood Engineering: Mr Geoff Topping is made chairman and managing director, Mr Gordon Knight and Mr Michael Prokopion directors.

Datapoint (UK): Mr Brian Gibbon has been made regional vice president.

Target Group: Mr Robin Landon becomes group finance director.

Structural Dynamics Research Corporation: Mr Robert Henderson, Mr Ted McCourtney and Mr Donald Young are appointed non-executive directors.

Rauma-Repola Oy: Mr Pekka Laxell joins the executive committee and is made director, shipbuilding and offshore division. Mr Martti Unkari joins the executive committee and becomes director, engineering division.

Microgen Holdings: Mr Philip Tattersall is made group administration and accounts director.

TSB Commercial Holdings: Mr John Macpherson, Mr Laurence Evans and Mr Kenneth Cox have been made non-executive directors.

Mr Tony Hart and Mr Tejen Majumdar become directors. Belhaven Brewery Group: Mr Henry King has been made a non-executive director.

KAE Group: Mrs Gunda Laszki joins the board.

600 Services: Mr Ian Stanford has been made managing director.

Aquascutum: Mr Stuart Hollander becomes group managing director.

Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr David Parsons for the defendants. United Artists Corporation, Blake Edwards and Lakeline Productions Ltd from a judgment of Mr Justice Hobhouse on June 10, 1985 in favour of the plaintiffs, Elwood Abraham Rickless and Michael Barry Wolf, sung as executors of Peter Sellers, Salsimanda Ltd and Motion Picture Factoring SA.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that during his lifetime, Peter Sellers made a series of five films known as the Pink Panther films in which he played the main character, Inspector Clouseau, an eccentric and accident-prone French detective.

The character was based on an idea of the second defendant, Blake Edwards and the first film in the series was made in 1958. When a film is made, far more film was shot than was eventually incorporated in the final film released for exhibition.

Footages not incorporated in the final version were called "out-takes" which comprised not only the film which at the time of shooting was found unsatisfactory, but also sequences which, though in themselves satisfactory, were discarded in the process of editing.

"Clips", on the other hand, were excerpts from the final film as exhibited to the public. During Peter Sellers' lifetime, Blake Edwards' idea of making a Pink Panther film using out-takes from the earlier films together with new additional material.

Peter Sellers refused to agree. He died in 1982.

The film had been very successful and profitable. In 1981 the United Artists Corporation and Blake Edwards decided to make Trail of the

Rickless and Others v United Artists Corporation and Others. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Bingham.

[Judgment December 10]

The Dramatic and Musical Performers' Protection Act 1958 conferred on a performer private rights of action enforceable in the civil courts and those rights vested in and were enforceable by the performer's personal representatives after his death.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants. United Artists Corporation, Blake Edwards and Lakeline Productions Ltd from a judgment of Mr Justice Hobhouse on June 10, 1985 in favour of the plaintiffs, Elwood Abraham Rickless and Michael Barry Wolf, sung as executors of Peter Sellers, Salsimanda Ltd and Motion Picture Factoring SA.

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Performer's private rights survive his death

prohibition was imposed for the benefit or protection of a particular class and the second was where the statute created a public right and a particular member of the public suffered special damage.

It was apparent from the short titles of both the 1925 and 1958 Acts that they were passed for the protection of performers and that was a very strong pointer in favour of the Act creating private rights within the first exception.

Although the state of the authorities was not a happy one, there was no authority which had to be treated as binding on their Lordships and therefore their Lordships and I gave his Lordship's views so far as performers were concerned.

The defendants further contended that the making of Trail after Peter Sellers' death even without his consent would not infringe section 2 of the 1958 Act and therefore could not give rise to any civil liability under that head.

They submitted that unless so limited the 1958 Act would impose an indefinite ban on the reproduction of a performance. That personal representatives of a deceased performer could not give the necessary consent to any reproduction and that even if they could, the power indefinitely to veto any such reproduction was inconsistent with the intention of Parliament.

That argument could not be upheld. The right to give or withhold consent was the same as any other right. A right which was not personal vested in personal representatives and prima facie a right conferred by statute survived death unless there were clear words to the contrary.

The right to give or withhold consent survived the death of the performer as vested in personal representatives. The 1958 Act was passed to protect the performer generally and was not just to protect his interests by prohibiting the reproduction of a performance which might damage his chances of getting further employment.

Therefore the 1958 Act did confer a civil right of action on the plaintiffs and the making of Trail constituted a breach of that right. Save in relation to the use of clips from two of the films Peter Sellers did not consent to the reproduction of his performance in Trail for the purposes of the 1958 Act.

Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Stephen Brown delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Wright Webb Syrett; Herbert Oppenheimer Nathan & Vandryk.



George Willman

managing director from March 1 and Mr Michael Walter deputy managing director, sales and marketing.

Smurfit UK Print & Packaging Division: Mr Ron Watson is made chief executive.

Forth Ports Authority: Mr Peter Clatterback becomes director, engineering and Mr Wilson Murray director, finance.

Taywood Engineering: Mr Geoff Topping is made chairman and managing director, Mr Gordon Knight and Mr Michael Prokopion directors.

Datapoint (UK): Mr Brian Gibbon has been made regional vice president.

Target Group: Mr Robin Landon becomes group finance director.

Structural Dynamics Research Corporation: Mr Robert Henderson, Mr Ted McCourtney and Mr Donald Young are appointed non-executive directors.

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Microgen Holdings: Mr Philip Tattersall is made group administration and accounts director.

TSB Commercial Holdings: Mr John Macpherson, Mr Laurence Evans and Mr Kenneth Cox have been made non-executive directors.

Mr Ivor Walker, solicitor, for the Labour Party; Mr David Ellis for the employee.

SIR RALPH KILNER-BROWN said that the employee was engaged on a year's contract with the proviso that the post would be made permanent if the unit proved successful. The employers had established that a reorganization of the department was necessary.

The employee's job disappeared and a new job was created in its place. The employee applied for the post but was unsuccessful and the evidence before the industrial tribunal indicated that she had never been fairly considered and that her application was prejudged and doomed to failure.

The industrial tribunal said that an employee whose job was considered on equal terms for

COMPANY NEWS

J WILLIAMS, CARDIFF: No dividend for year to September 30. Net turnover £11,413,978 (£12,016,591). Profit before tax £280,021 (£25,071), tax credit £29 (nil), minority interest £35,998 (£2,411), extraordinary items £2,511 (credit £26,923), earnings per share 3.52p (0.33p). In the course of Wyndham's unsuccessful bid, the directors informed shareholders that they would be considering a scheme of reconstruction with a view to enabling dividend payments to be resumed as quickly as possible.

CARR'S MILLING INDUSTRIES: Final 4.75p making 6.5p (6p). Sales to external customers for the year to August 30 in £000, 65,799 (57,217). Pretax profit 1,482 (1,281), tax 332 (234), extraordinary debt 194 (nil), minority interest debt 384 (431), earnings per share-weighted average, 18.4p (18.3p).

RADIO CLYDE: Final 2.25p (2p) making 3.5p (3.25p). Turnover year to September 30, in £000, 4,457 (4,087). Pretax profit 532 (536) after deducting liability to IBA secondary rental 126 (nil) and chequeover levy 32 (nil). Tax 204 (139), extraordinary credit (less tax) nil (3). Earnings per share, pre-extraordinary item 5.7p (3.4p). Local radio increased both in audience and advertising revenue during the year. The company's local advertising revenue rose 8% while national advertising revenue grew by 3%.

SIDLAW GROUP: Final 2.75p making 5.5p (9p). Turnover for year to October 31 in £000, 50,618 (38,340). Pretax profit tax 3,374 (6,259), tax 1,305 (2,958). Extraordinary debts 4,213 (639). Earnings per share 9.93p (15.84p). Profit before tax 6,502 (6,502), pretax profit was 71,605 (loss 75,840), tax was 22,198 (nil) and earnings per share were 5.80 (a loss per share of 43.14p).

M & G DUAL TRUST: Dividend was 7.1p (5.8p) for the six months to November 30. Tax was 290,575 (254,082), revenue after tax was 711,352 (760), and earnings per share were 7.11p (5.93p). Dividend payable January 23.

CITY SITE ESTATES: Final 0.49p making 0.96p (0.82p) for year to September 30. Figs in £000, rental income 960 (456), profit before tax 339 (554), tax 115 (241). Realized gain on investments 116 (nil). Gross surplus for the year 455 (554), profit attributable to 100 ordinary shares 3,089 (5,203). Earnings per share basic 2.27p (7.21p), fully diluted 2.05p (3.70p). Net assets per share, basic 1.27p (95p) and fully diluted 1.04p (72p).

BOOTH INDUSTRIES: Figs in £000 for the six months to September 30. Turnover was 6,029 (6,502), pretax profit was 71,605 (loss 75,840), tax was 22,198 (nil) and earnings per share were 5.80 (a loss per share of 43.14p).

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HARVARD SECURITIES GROUP: Dividend doubled to 1p for the year to Sept 30, payable on Feb. 20. Turnover £81.8 million (£59.42 million). Pretax profit £1.9 million (£1.54 million). Earnings per share 3.7p (4.93p).

Sidley v Phillips (Inspector of Taxes). Before Mr Justice Knox [Judgment December 5].

The income of a barrister derived from part-time lecturing was assessable to income tax under Schedule E and not under Schedule D. That income constituted emoluments from an "office of employment" within the meaning of section 181 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Mr Justice Knox so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by Mr Hugh Sidley from a determination of the special commissioners in relation to Schedule E assessments made on him for the years 1976-77 to 1981-82 inclusive.

Mr Sidley in person; Mr Alan Moses for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that Mr Sidley was called to the Bar in 1951 and had a seat in Lincoln's Inn. He had not been in general practice since about 1960. He derived part of his income from part-time lecturing on legal subjects for the Thames Polytechnic and ILEA.

In 1976 his tax inspector concluded that that part of his

income was to be assessed under Schedule E and no longer under Schedule D. Thereafter Mr Sidley was assessed accordingly.

The Crown contended, and Mr Sidley accepted, that "employment" was synonymous with Schedule E liability. Thus the question was whether Mr Sidley had at the material times a contract of service with those for whom he lectured and not a contract for services.

The commissioners who heard Mr Sidley's appeal against the assessments had heard evidence and seen the documents that contained the standard terms, conditions and responsibilities of part-time lecturers were set out.

Whether or not those contracts constituted contracts of service was a question of law. However the evaluation of the various elements was a matter of fact.

The commissioners had the function of assessing the various factors in the case and the High Court hearing an appeal could only interfere if the commissioners had misdirected themselves as to the law or had reached a conclusion that was contrary to the only true and reasonable conclusion that could be reached on the facts.

Mr Sidley's argument that it was open to the appellate court to consider the facts as found and to make up its own mind on the issue was unacceptable. That that was not the court's function was clear from the decision of the Court of Appeal in O'Kelly v Trust Houses Forte Ltd (1984) 1 QB 901.

Mr Sidley had gone on to draw attention to features of his work that he said supported his argument that no contract of service existed. He pointed to the facts that he was paid on an hourly basis, that there was a minimum of control over his lecturing activities, that there was a distinct lack of adherence to the terms of his contracts and lastly to the discontinuous nature of his working arrangements.

Notwithstanding those matters it was clear that the commissioners' decision that Mr Sidley's contracts with those for whom he taught constituted contracts of service was a determination that they were well entitled to reach. It followed that the appeal was allowed in respect of income derived from that work was properly assessable under Schedule E. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Barrister's part-time income is assessable under Schedule E

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Job fairness not apt in selection

Labour Party v Oakley. Before Sir Ralph Kilner-Brown and Mr T. H. Jenkins and Mr K. M. Yeo [Judgment November 27].

A sales and marketing officer whose fixed-term contract was not renewed following a restructuring of the department and who was not given fair consideration for a new job created as a result of the reorganization had not been unfairly dismissed since the fairness provisions in section 57(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 did not apply to selection for the new job which occurred after the act of dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when considering an appeal by the Labour Party from a decision of a London industrial tribunal last August that the employee, Miss N. Oakley, had been unfairly dismissed.

Mr Ivor Walker, solicitor, for the Labour Party; Mr David Ellis for the employee.

SIR RALPH KILNER-BROWN said that the employee was engaged on a year's contract with the proviso that the post would be made permanent if the unit proved successful. The employers had established that a reorganization of the department was necessary.

The employee's job disappeared and a new job was created in its place. The employee applied for the post but was unsuccessful and the evidence before the industrial tribunal indicated that she had never been fairly considered and that her application was prejudged and doomed to failure.

The industrial tribunal said that an employee whose job was considered on equal terms for

the new post and a failure to consider her on equal terms made the dismissal unfair.

The employers submitted that the unfairness in the selection process for the new job was irrelevant to the dismissal from the old job. The employee argued that the fixed-term contract envisaged the possibility of renewal, therefore it was appropriate to consider all the circumstances which concerned her possible re-engagement as well as those which concerned the need for reorganization.

They said it was wrong under section 57(3) of the Act to stop the analysis at the point of non-renewal; that an assessment of all the circumstances and substantial merits of the case was required and that the tri-

bunal had not misdirected themselves in law.

The appeal tribunal accepted the Labour Party's argument that the provisions of section 57(3) related to the act of dismissal only. The reason for the dismissal was the reorganization which was found to be fair.

The provisions of section 57(3) did not apply to the way in which the employers had considered an application for the new job which was some thing which occurred after the act of dismissal.

The appeal would be allowed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Pritchard Englefield & Tobin; Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford.

Consolidating claims

Dietsman v Brent London Borough Council. Wahlstrom v Same.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Popplewell, Miss C. Holroyd and Mr G. H. Wright) on December 8 upheld an order by an industrial tribunal chairman to consolidate unfair dismissal claims against Brent London Borough Council by two social workers who had been dismissed following the publication of the report of the public inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the chairman had exercised his powers under rule 15 of Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunals (Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1985 No 16).

The applicants were challenging his decision on the ground, inter alia, that each would be prejudiced by the presence of the other party in that there was

a conflict as to responsibility between them.

The majority of the appeal tribunal considered that the chairman had exercised his discretion properly.

It had been argued that as a matter of law the two applications in conflict could not be consolidated. But it was important to look at the wording of rule 15.

Although it was headed "consolidation of proceedings" the only order a tribunal could make was to hear the applications together, unlike the High Court which had the power to consolidate or to order that the cases should be heard at the same time. The industrial tribunal's power under rule 15 was not consolidation despite the heading.

The decision in Lewis v Daily Telegraph Ltd (No 2) (1964) 2 QB 601 (applied) only consolidation and was not applicable.

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SPORT

Yorkshire smear campaign ends career for Boycott

By Martin Searby

Geoff Boycott, sacked by Yorkshire last September, has turned down the offer of a two-year contract with Derbyshire, a decision which virtually ensures his 25-year first class career is over.

The opening batsman, aged 46, refused to sign after an undignified attempt to start a whispering campaign against his continued membership of the Yorkshire committee, upon which he represents the Wakefield constituency.

Not happy with dismissing some of his most productive batsmen, successful captain since 1969 and controversial character, some members of the committee, among them the Viscount Mountgarret, the president, expressed the view that if Boycott continued to play first class cricket he should be disbanded from standing for election. There were even moves afoot to change the rules, drawn up less than a year ago, to effect his removal.

Boycott, who is a firm supporter of the new £425,000 indoor cricket school of eight nets which will be opened next

door to Headingley next month under Doug Padgett, the county coach, was understandably annoyed at the club's attitude and said yesterday: "The committee are obsessed with Geoff Boycott and seem totally preoccupied with getting me out of the club. They would be better occupied putting their energies into other things, having lost a major sponsor and £20,000 and facing a £40,000 deficit on the current account."

"There is no doubt that some members tried to stir up potential opposition to me if I played for another county and I have told Derbyshire that, although I am very grateful for their offer, I am unable to accept it."

The former England batsman and still the leading Test run scorer is not likely to join any other county and added: "I have no other plans at the moment."

While he is in Australia for the Ashes series, the election will be held for his Wakefield seat where he is opposed by Dr John Turner, a heart surgeon, whom Boycott beat 203-147

three years ago. "My first love has always been Yorkshire cricket and, as any Yorkshireman will understand, it is an emotional thing. I want to be involved with the cricket school and basically carry on serving the club."

Half the costs for country's largest cricket school of 14,300 sq ft has been provided by the Sports Council, Leeds City Council and the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan authority. But while firms are asked to sponsor each net at £12,500 for five years and Yorkshire's 11,000 members will be asked to buy a brick at £10 each to ensure the school's future, the future of one of their favourite sons is less sure.

Only one thing seems certain: the Yorkshire public will certainly take a dim view of the latest attempt to expel Boycott who undoubtedly has a great deal still to offer the first class game. It seems churlish to sack a man and then prevent him from playing elsewhere on penalty of being thrown out of a club he served for a quarter of a century.



Handing over the reign: Ian Botham (right) with some advice for James Whitaker

Strain finally tells on Botham

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Adelaide

One ball, thrown at him under-arm from no more than a few yards at the Adelaide Oval yesterday morning, was enough to decide Botham that the strained muscle in his rib cage would prevent him from taking any part in the third Test match against Australia starting here this morning. His place at No 6 in the order was given to James Whitaker, this being the only change from the side who won in Brisbane and drew in Perth.

England seem to have decided some days ago that in the event of Botham being unable to play they would rather weaken the bowling than the batting when replacing him. Gatting is therefore

left with a four-man attack, augmented by his own occasional medium-pace. It is not the first time England have gone into an Adelaide Test match with only four regular bowlers. They did it in 1946 when Bedser, Edrich, Wright and Yardley had only Ikin in support.

The temperature then seldom dropped below the century; but Bedser bowled Bradman for nought. Yardley bowled 31 economical eight-ball overs in Australia's first innings and England drew the match.

The time had come on this present tour when Whitaker, through no fault of his own, was relying on one of the other

batsmen being injured if he was to get a Test match. When Botham broke down in Perth Whitaker's form, and Stack's, became instantly more relevant.

Basing his views of the way Whitaker has made his runs against Somerset, Peter Roebuck already rates him as the best batsman in the England party. That is some reference. He could be a lot less fortunate, too, in the time and place at which he finds himself

England team

B C Broad, C W J Athey, M W Gatting, A J Lamb, D I Gower, J J Whitaker, T C J Richards, P A J DeFreitas, J E Embarey, P H Edmunds and G R Dillley.

playing his first Test match. He has already made a hundred on the ground, against South Australia last month (this influenced his selection ahead of Stack); it looks a very good pitch, and it is not as though he will be greeted by Thomson at one end and Lillee at the other.

Even so, it is quite a situation for a young man, the heir of the party, to find himself in "One thing for sure, the bloke taking Botham's place has mighty big shoes to fill," Border said. Whitaker sees himself not as Botham's substitute, but there to do his best by his own lights. He is ambitious, confident and, in the best sense, calculating. And should he do well it will be an incentive to

the senior players, particularly Lamb, whose average in 23 overseas Test matches is only 21.

Whitaker is 24. He went to school at Uppingham and before that at Malis in Yorkshire. The last Uppinghamian to play for England was Agnew, and before that A P F Chapman. There were other long ago Gregor MacGregor, who played in the Adelaide Test match of 1892; S S Schultz, a fast round-arm bowler, who played at Melbourne in 1879; and Clem Wilson, brother of Rockley (of Winchester College fame and himself a Test cricketer) won a couple of caps in South Africa in 1899.

It was said that Clem Wilson owed a lot, while at Uppingham, to the brilliant coaching of H H Stephenson, who had played for All-England before England played. Whitaker came under the supervision of Maurice Hallam when he was at Uppingham.

I mention that Whitaker's parents are in Adelaide, because of the experience of Bob Barber's father, who, having landed in Australia in the early morning of January 7, 1966, went straight to the Hill at Sydney, queued to get in and watched his unknown son make 185. With Gower and DeFreitas, as well as Whitaker, playing today, Leicestershire have three representatives in the same England Test side for the first time.

Four-day matches voted in by board

By Ivo Tennant

Four-day county championship matches will be played for the first time in England in 1988, the Test and County Cricket Board decided at their winter meeting at Lord's yesterday. Each county will play six four-day matches, in addition to 16 over three days. This format will be kept for at least three years.

The change, described as "radical" by Alan Smith, chief executive-designate of the TCCB, was overwhelmingly backed by the first class counties, who voted 15-2 in favour. The NatWest Trophy and the Refuge Assurance League will remain unchanged but in 1988 the Benson and Hedges Cup (should they still be the sponsors) will have no quarter-finals. Only the winners of each zonal group will go forward.

Smith, who said there was no reason to suppose Benson and Hedges would withdraw over this curtailment of their competition, said he expected the four-day matches would be played at the beginning and end of the season, mostly on weekdays. Each county will play three matches on its home grounds and three away.

The changes are seen as a compromise over the Palmer Report, which advocated eight four-day matches and fewer one-day matches. "We would hope techniques and abilities would improve through four-day cricket and that there will

be a greater premium on bowling sides out," Smith said. No decision has been reached over possible changes in the bonus-points system or the covering of pitches.

Next season, the Combined Universities side that will contest the Benson and Hedges Cup will encompass players from all British universities, although Oxford and Cambridge will continue to provide the venues.

The TCCB are to make two proposals to the International Cricket Conference for consideration at their meeting next summer. They suggest that for Tests, bouncers will be limited to one an over, with only one warning given. Support for that is expected from Australia. The other proposal is that bowlers' run-ups be limited to 30 yards.

Recommendations to phase out the ruling which permits counties to play two overseas players if they were registered before November 28, 1978 will be discussed further next year.

In 1988, England will play five Test matches and three one-day internationals against the West Indies and one Test match against Sri Lanka.

Brian Shaw, general manager of Britannic Assurance, sponsors of the County Championship, said: "We welcome the experiment of four-day cricket as a very positive development."

Witherspoon spars with all the King's men

From Srikanar Sen, Boxing Correspondent, New York

Tim Witherspoon, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, took such an ear-bashing from Don King, the promoter, for questioning the deal King's son Carl secured for him from King senior, that his ears will continue to be assailed by the stridently accusing words long after the fists of James Bonercrusher Smith have finished their pounding at Madison Square Garden tonight — that is if Witherspoon's title defence is not knocked out by legal wrangles that have been going on for the last two days.

The bout was still in doubt late last evening because of a row over contracts between Witherspoon and Don King, his manager and the promoter.

After two days of negotiations the two parties were as far apart as before and Witherspoon's lawyer, Dennis Richard, said: "There is no fight unless the promoter makes a new contract. King maintained that the contract was valid in the state of New York and that he had no intention of releasing Witherspoon from it."

For almost two hours on Wednesday morning, when he should have been preparing himself mentally for his title defence, Witherspoon had to listen to the outpourings of the most powerful man in boxing from the sidelines of a Press conference. The champion then had to attend negotiations between his lawyer, Dennis Richard, and King's men that lasted well into the evening.

Talking to an empty chair

The last time the champion's chair was empty at a King Press conference was last April when Holmes refused to attend. King, with his usual flair, kept talking to the empty chair. "All right, champ? You hear that, champ?"

This time, with his £1½ million show on Friday night and his multi-million dollar world heavyweight title unification series in danger, he unburdened himself. Looking distinctly pale because of a violently rude interruption by Mitch Green, a fighter, who chased King out of the Garden's Hall of Fame into the kitchen screaming "I'm going to break your neck", he castigated his champion, the Press, and those who tried to stop the rise and rise of Don King "from sub-zero." He even raised Witherspoon's fee from \$250,000 to \$300,000 to make the differential between the fighters a little more respectable. Bonercrusher is receiving \$230,000.

King is an accomplished speaker. What he says does not always make sense but you know what he means. "There are piranhas who circle a fight camp... Witherspoon has so many friends telling him what to do, Einstein would have to battle them off with a Freudian concept... You think a lawyer is a big bad guy whose going to pounce upon me and

get me to give away my money... I've got a \$1.1 billion nut and that includes the party I'm going to throw after the fight, if there is a fight... You got \$30,000-\$40,000 worth of tickets sold in the box office — that shows you how popular the boxers are. Unless this Press conference sells tickets, not the fight, you are going to have nobody in the Garden but you and me... No more lovey dovey arms around the shoulders.

It was just the stuff for the troops but hardly for fighters. King dug deep into American constitution, the Bible and Shakespeare, so much so that when Witherspoon's attorney rose to speak he too opened with the quote from the heavyweight from Stratford-on-Avon. "The lady doth protest too much," he said.

While the Shenanigans of this week had left Witherspoon mentally drained, by the end of Wednesday evening he had gathered himself. His close friend and head trainer, Slim Robinson, said: "If the fight goes on, no way can Timmy lose to Bonercrusher because Timmy is not fighting Bonercrusher now, he is fighting Don King. I know it has been a strain for him but he's in good shape and will beat Bonercrusher again."

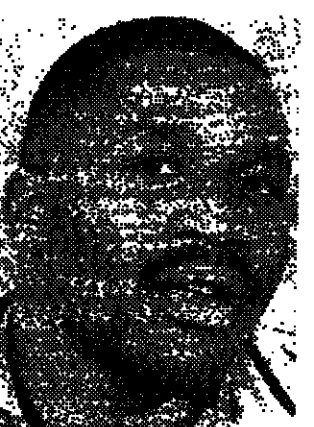
The last time Witherspoon had a row with King was three years ago. Witherspoon said: "I am so mad I did not train at all. To hell with them. Either I will knock him out or I'm in trouble." Witherspoon knocked out Tillis in one round.

But his second trainer, Whit Lowery was sceptical about the outcome of the fight. He believed that because Witherspoon's original opponent, Tony Tubbs could not fight because of a shoulder injury Witherspoon should have gone through to beat Mike Tyson in the heavyweight series. "Why should Timmy fight Bonercrusher again?" he said. "He has already beaten him. A fighter has got to have something to shoot for. Bonercrusher is nothing to shoot for. It could be a bad fight for Timmy on Friday."

Best class opposition

Witherspoon, who's thought to be the only person who can give Tyson a fight, even beat him, should prove too experienced for Smith. Witherspoon has met better class opposition. He beat Greg Page to win the WBC title, lost it to Pinklon Thomas, and won the WBA title from Tubbs.

Smith is a realist. He realizes he has much to learn but has developed a confidence in himself after three straight wins against Mike Weaver, Jesse Ferguson and David Bey. Under the direction of the former world middleweight champion, Emile Griffith, he hopes that he can cause yet another upset in this year of upsets.



Witherspoon



Smith

Age: 29  
Height: 6ft 3in  
Weight: 233½ lbs  
Reach: 77in  
Chest (normal): 43in  
Chest (expanded): 45in  
Biceps: 17in  
Forearms: 14in  
Wrist: 7½in  
Tight: 25½in  
Calf: 16½in  
Neck: 18in  
Wrist: 9in  
Fist: 12½in  
Ankle: 9in  
Record: 27 bouts, 25 won (17 knockouts), 2 lost.

Age: 31  
Height: 6ft 4in  
Weight: 228½ lbs  
Reach: 82in  
Chest (normal): 42½in  
Chest (expanded): 44in  
Biceps: 18in  
Forearms: 14in  
Wrist: 28in  
Tight: 25in  
Calf: 16in  
Neck: 18in  
Wrist: 9in  
Fist: 12½in  
Ankle: 9in  
Record: 23 bouts, 18 won (13 knockouts), 5 lost.

Graham is next

By George Ace

Herol Graham, the European middleweight champion from Sheffield and leading contender for Marvin Hagler's world title will head the bill at the King's Hall, Belfast, on Saturday, January 17 against Charlie Boston, from New Jersey, who recently stopped Errol Christie in eight rounds in London.

Boston has only lost three fights out of 15 and is rated in the top five by both the WBA and the WBC. The bout will be over ten rounds.

Graham, who boasts an unbeaten professional record of 37 wins, 20 of them inside the distance, has a point to prove to Belfast boxing

followers. On his only previous appearance in the city he outpointed a nondescript American 12 months ago and was most unimpressive. On that occasion Graham's opponent was a trainee chef, Sandeline Williams who, with sporadic bursts of aggression that were never enough to carry the fight, proved a troublesome opponent. It will be the first King's Hall promotion by the Eastwood organisation for 15 months and is a measure of the determination to keep boxing alive in the city even without former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan.

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SNOKER Hallett and Hendry break new ground

By Sydney Friskin

Mike Hallett and Stephen Hendry, the crowd's new favourites, became the latest aspirants for the £4,000 highest-combined-break prize in the Hofmeister world doubles championship at Northampton yesterday.

In their 17-frame semi-final against John Virgo and Kirk Stevens, Hallett made a 106 clearance in the fourth frame and Hendry 48 in the sixth for a total of 154, which beat the 152 by Steve Davis and Tony Meo. At the interval yesterday, Hallett and Hendry led 5-2.

Hallett's 106 enabled him to square the match at 2-2 and pull back the advantage Virgo had established with breaks of 54 and 30 for a 2-1 lead.

Hendry and Hallett had some of their best moments in the fifth frame, in which breaks of 35 by Hendry and 34 by Hallett shot them into a 3-2 lead, which they soon extended to 5-2.

In the process, there was that crucial 48 break by Hendry and a 71 by Hallett,

whose fluency throughout the afternoon captivated the audience.

Davis and Meo, the holders and winners on three previous occasions, must prepare for a game of patience when they meet Dennis Taylor and Terry Griffiths in the second semi-final today.

Jimmy White and Alex Higgins had put their own cards on the table all too late on Wednesday night and were beaten 5-4 in the quarter-finals after they had come back from 1-4 to 4-4.

ATHLETICS

Athletes want life bans for drug abuse

Lausanne (Reuters) — The Olympic Athletes' Commission yesterday urged the International Olympic Committee to ban for life athletes caught using illegal drugs.

After a 90-minute meeting, Britain's Olympic 1,500 metres champion, Sebastian Coe, said that the 13-member Commission felt strongly that any athlete found using illegal drugs should be banned from international sport for life.

Berlin push

The West German women's open tennis tournament in West Berlin plans to become the third most important European competition after Wimbledon and the French Open. West Berlin have applied to the Women's International Professional Tennis Council (WIPITC) to double prize money to \$300,000 (about £211,270) from 1988.

Fog rules

Internazionale Milan's third round second leg European Football Union (UEFA) Cup match with Dukla Prague, abandoned because of bad visibility on Wednesday night, was again yesterday due to more fog. Club officials were meeting UEFA representatives to arrange a new date for the fixture.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hare's dash

Dusty Hare, who arrives back from Saudi Arabia at 8am tomorrow, dashes straight from Gatwick Airport to captain Leicester against Blackheath in the absence of Les Cusworth who is representing the Midlands in the divisional championship.

Tour increase

Next year's Tour of Spain cycle race will be increased by 250 kilometres to 3,900 km with entries up from 170 to 200. The 23-stage event starts in Benidorm on April 23, finishing in Madrid on May 15.

New chairman

Jonathan Crisp, the millionaire, is the new chairman of Colchester United. Crisp, son of a former South African Test cricketer, joined the board two years ago and is the principal shareholder. He succeeds Maurice Cadman, chairman for the past five years, who will be the club's first ever life president.

Marathon cash

More than £500,000 will be invested in next year's Mars London marathon by Tandem Computers. The company were named yesterday as official computer sponsor for the race for the second time. Tandem Computers Inc, the American parent company, are to sponsor the Los Angeles marathon for the first time in 1987.

Good Gollogly

Anne Gollogly, the former England basketball captain, now a Redcar schoolteacher, has been appointed assistant coach of England's women team.